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THURSDAY APRIL 19TH, 2018

It's our **BIRTHDAY!**
The Glamorgan GEM is 35 years old
See the first edition of The GEM on page 22.

Busy weekend for RNLI crews as... Walkers are warned (yet again) about incoming tides

THE weekend proved a busy time for Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat volunteers, with three call-outs and a training exercise.

There were two 'shouts' on Saturday, first to a broken down vessel, then later to two persons and a dog cut off by the incoming tide.

The Sunday call out was to wind surfers who were in difficulties.

The town's RNLI crews were first paged by HM Coastguard Agency at 1.25pm on Saturday to reports of a broken down fishing boat off Stout Bay, Nash Point.

The Atlantic 85, Rose of the Shires was launched and located the casualty. Lifeboat crewman James Kinsella was transferred aboard to assist in securing a tow line and whilst the casualty was under tow back to Newton Bay, James used his day job experience and managed to get the engine running again.

The tow was then released and the lifeboat escorted the vessel back to Newton.

With the lifeboat refuelled and rehoisted, crew were again paged at

5pm to a report of two persons and a dog cut off below the high cliffs west of Nash Point.

Both Porthcawl's lifeboats were launched and headed east towards the area where the casualties had been reported trapped by the incoming tide.

Working with Llantwit Coastguard unit, the lifeboat crews located the casualties and two crew members were put ashore to assess the situation.

Several attempts were made to take the smaller D class Jean Ryall into the rocky shore but with a dumping swell breaking right on the shore it proved too dangerous for helmsman Chris Page to risk his lifeboat and crew.

With Barry Coastguard Unit joining the rescue bid it was decided to attempt a cliff rescue but following a request from Porthcawl lifeboats, the SAR helicopter was tasked to winch the two casualties and their dog to safety.

The helicopter then stood by whilst the two crew swam out through the surf and back on board the lifeboats. All units were stood down at 6.50pm and returned to base.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



ABOVE: *Curtain Up in Maesteg!*
See more pictures and a review on page 6.
(Photograph by Scenic Gallery).

TEENAGER WITH LIFE-THREATENING INJURIES FOLLOWING ASSAULT

SOUTH Wales Police is investigating a serious assault which has left a teenager in hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Officers were called to Bridgend Road, Aberkenfig, shortly before 8pm on Thursday, April 12, where an 18-year-old man was found unconscious in the road.

He was taken to Princess of Wales Hospital with head injuries.

An 18-year-old man and a 17-year-

old youth have since been arrested in connection with the incident.

Both are currently on bail pending further investigation.

A spokesperson said: "Officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the assault, or who was at Aberkenfig Workingmen's Club and may have valuable information about events prior to the incident."

Anyone with any information should contact 101, quoting occurrence 1800127227.

First Minister under fire

See www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk and next week's GEM

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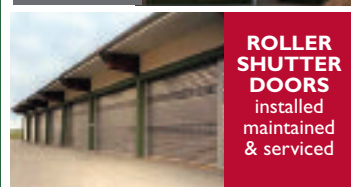
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Porthcawl enjoys jazz and blues!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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FOR aficionados of jazz and blues, the Porthcawl Jazz & Blues Festival 2018 had something for everyone.

Saturday saw blue skies and sunshine, and a day of jazz. Hepcats sipped chilled fizz as Spring dared to show her face.

She disappeared rather quickly. Sunday was grey, though the music was the blues.

A great time was had by all. Altogether now: "Nice!"

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 26)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
19 Thur	09.32	9.9	21.49	9.8
20 Fri	10.16	9.7	22.32	9.6
21 Sat	10.59	9.3	23.23	9.1
22 Sun	11.56	8.6		
23 Mon	00.24	8.3	13.06	8.2
24 Tues	01.41	8.0	14.32	7.9
25 Wed	03.08	8.1	15.55	8.3
26 Thur	04.23	8.6	16.59	8.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

The Glamorgan GEM • Contact us...

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Darrell to climb Everest for autism charity



Bridgend Sports can now claim its club is global, as Darrell Clarke displays its flag on the route to Mount Everest.



Bridgend Sports under-12s look forward to welcoming Darrell back, complete with the flag, in time for its presentation night on May 4.

Rotary checks out locals' blood pressure

THE Rotary Club of Porthcawl recently organised the annual Stroke Association's 'Know Your Blood Pressure Day' at Trinity Church, Porthcawl.

Rotarians, assisted by members of Porthcawl Stroke Club, encouraged people to have a free blood pressure check taken by health professionals, without any need to make an appointment.

The Mayor of Porthcawl, Cllr Lorrie Desmond Williams, was first in the queue to see nurse Gill Williams and Rotary president Sandra Townsend. Madeleine Moon MP and Mayor's consort, Don Sutton, were also present (see photo).

This event is held every year as high blood pressure is the biggest risk factor for stroke, contributing to 50 per cent of all strokes and of course, not everyone with high blood pressure experiences any symptoms.



During the day, 167 people took the opportunity to get checked: of this number, 16 were advised to have a routine follow up and six were recommended to make an urgent referral at their local surgery.

If only one or two are alerted to possible problems, then the Rotary Club of Porthcawl feel it was all worthwhile.

Rotarians are very grateful to all the volunteers who worked throughout the day, especially the health professionals who gave their time so willingly.

For further information about stroke and the Stroke Association, visit www.stroke.org.uk. For further information about Rotary, visit www.rotary-ribi.org. LC

BRIDGEND Sports RFC reached new heights recently when its under-12s coach, Darrell Clarke, began a month's trek to climb Mount Everest for the charity Halcyon.

Darrell has supported the charity for a number of years and this is his second venture up Everest for the cause.

Darrell's group set off from Heathrow Airport and took a helicopter from Katmandu to Lukla to begin the long trek towards Mount Everest; a key part of the acclimatisation process.

Before leaving the UK on his trek, Darrell said: "I'm continuing to support this amazing charity, as it is great to see they are clearly changing families' lives."

"The charity raises awareness of autism and related conditions through training and education. It aims to reduce conflict within families and communities and offers advice and support to all those affected."

"The charity believes all people with autism have a right to reach their

full potential and provides a framework and opportunities for them to do so. The team behind the charity is made up of parents, carers, and those on the autistic spectrum and professionals. The charity places public benefit at the heart of its activities as it seeks to fulfil its charitable aims."

The Everest expedition started on April 9 and the group taking part will be hiking to Kala Pathar, overlooking base camp Everest, where they will take part in a world record breaking game of five a side football. A smaller group will then attempt to climb to Island Peak on Everest.

In his day-to-day work with the NHS, Darrell has seen the positive impact the work of the charity has on families affected by autism, ASD, ADHD, learning difficulties and emotional and mental health problems.

Darrell has set up a fundraising page to raise £4,000 for the charity and anyone wishing to support this cause can visit mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/darrellclarke3. RM

Film training scheme looks for local talent in Bridgend area



On location with It's My Shout.

EVERY year, the BAFTA CYMRU-award winning 'It's My Shout' film and television training scheme spends the summer months shooting a series of short films, which are shown on BBC Wales and S4C during the autumn.

This year 'It's My Shout' (IMS) has partnered up with Valleys 2 Coast and Awen Cultural Trust to find the next batch of new Welsh Talent.

Roger Burnell, founder of the talent scheme, said: "It's My Shout opens the door to new talent from all backgrounds, building their confidence and skills, exciting them about opportunities in Wales."

"Over the years the

scheme has created over 1,000 jobs in the industry both behind and in front of the camera.

"Having a passion for unearthing and nurturing talent throughout my career, sometimes from unlikely backgrounds, makes it extremely rewarding to see so many people respond so positively."

The scheme is currently scouting various regions of Wales for this year's summer short films. There are opportunities for actors, technicians and for anyone who wants a taste of life in the film industry.

There will be six English language films made along with two welsh speaking films. The films will be shooting over the summer and after they have been through post production, will be

shown on BBC and S4C, giving trainees involved a professional credit and an invaluable experience.

The launch dates are as follows:

• Betws Library - April 19 at 4pm.

• Wild Mill Community Centre - April 25, 5pm.

An IMS spokesman said: "Since it's very humble beginnings back in 2002, It's My Shout has grown rapidly and enjoyed a great deal of success."

"Many films from previous years that were made as part of the training scheme have been screened all over the world; one of the films, *Walk or Fly*, made in Pontypridd was selected for the Berlin Film Festival, and was shown on Russian State Television, reaching over 20 million people and has since then been sold to two international countries for education purposes."

POETS AND OPEN MIC

TWO poets and an open mic session takes place at The Green Room at Sustainable Wales, 5 James Street, Porthcawl CF36 3BG on Friday, April 27 at 8pm.

Frances Presley is a writer who now lives in London. Her innovative work is published by Shearsman. A recent book, *'Sallow'*, comes from Leaf Press. Christopher Cornwell is also an English poet, now living in Swansea. His first book, *'Ergasy'*, is published by The Lonely Crowd.

Entrance £4; everyone welcome.

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Porthcawl Lions Club news

PORTHCAWL Lions Club was granted Charitable Incorporated Organisation status on April 2. Trustees have been appointed, and the club continues.

The season commences for the Porthcawl Lions with a book sale in John Street on Saturday, April 28,

followed by a car boot sale at Porthcawl Rugby ground on Sunday, May 6.

The May Fayre at All Saints Church, Victoria Avenue, takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7 from 11am. It includes a Teddy Bears' Picnic, dog show, games and stalls for all interests and ages. See PorthcawlLions.co.uk for details.

DR

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A CASE OF POWERFUL POLITENESS IN PORTHCAWL WITH JACOB REES-MOGG

PORTHCAWL tends to receive visits from high-profile politicians rarely, but Jacob Rees-Mogg, Conservative MP for North East Somerset, came to the town on April 13.

He visited to meet local and regional politicians, party faithful, and others curious to hear a man described variously as "The pin-striped populist" [He was, however, dressed in a dark navy double-breasted suit, not pin-stripes], "the Honourable Member for the 18th Century", and "...slightly more polite than Paddington Bear".

The GEM's Andy Johnstone popped along, too, and saw an audience of 60-odd, and distinctly not all 'male, pale, and stale', but about 50-50 women, from teenagers to those in their eighties, and people from the BME community.

The public luncheon passed without incident. No masked defenders of free speech burst in creating a less-than-mild-mannered mêlée to try to drown out his words, he spoke not at all in Latin or Ancient Greek, and he said floccinaucinihilipilification but twice.

Challenged to say, as he put it, "The Welsh railway station with a very long name", he politely gave way to Cllr Carolyn Webster for whom Llan-fairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysili skipped merrily off the tongue.

Elected to Parliament in 2010 (after unsuccessful attempts in Central Fife and The Wrekin in 1997 and 2001 respectively), he has increased his majority by, on average, nearly 5 per cent each election.

Mr Rees-Mogg spoke of, and was later questioned about, Brexit, The UK's place in the world, Syria, Russia, and anti-Semitism.

On any potential reaction – military or otherwise – by the UK and allies over the most recent use of chemical weapons in Syria, he said: "Some say that to die by a bullet, or a bomb, or a chemical weapon is all the same, so why should a response to a chemical attack be different?"

"The use of chemical weapons is breaking one of the two golden, the inviolable, rules [The other, he said, was not to invade sovereign territory].

"They are prohibited weapons, prohibited because of their randomness, the effect that



Jacob Rees-Mogg with Bridgend Borough Councillors (from right) Lyn Walters, Matthew Voisey, and Carolyn Webster.

invariably they have on civilians more than military forces."

He added that it was "likely" that the regime of Bashar al-Assad was responsible, and that this was not the first time retaliation for its use of chemical weapons had been considered.

"Before, President Obama drew his 'red line', and promptly erased it soon after.

"This only strengthened the Assad regime, considering it could then act with impunity, and so a range of responses must be considered."

He drew parallels with Salisbury, and the recent nerve agent attack that hospitalised three, and extended his argument to include Brexit.

"Many, if not most, countries, believe Russia was responsible for the attack in Salisbury.

"The response of the United Kingdom was not held back by deferring to the European Union for approval for action.

"Yet the UK was joined, and very quickly, by three other European countries in the EU in expelling Russian diplomats.

"France, Germany and Poland, countries each with their own experiences of Russia and the Soviet Union, expelled diplomats, as did the Americans, to show their solidarity with the United Kingdom and

the shared belief in a nation's right to sovereignty."

Referring again to Syria, he added: "Saddam Hussein did not expect the response he received when he invaded Kuwait, similarly the Kaiser did not believe we would act as we did over Belgium, nor Hitler over Poland.

"A display of strength is the best guarantor of peace."

When asked if Parliament should debate and vote on a military response to Syria for its suspected chemical attack on its own people, Mr Rees-Mogg was clear: "No.

"Parliament may debate, but the Government must decide.

"The information that Mrs May and others within the Cabinet have on which to make any decision is secret, and it would cease to be secret if given to 650 MPs.

"The idea of secret information held by a Prime Minister has become tainted because of Tony Blair and Iraq's weapons of mass destruction [a reference to information held by the then Prime Minister Tony Blair in the September (or 'Dodgy') Dossier of 2002. No such weapons were found]."

Early the next day, RAF aircraft took part in a tripartite strike on sites in Syria.

Questions on Brexit, freedom of speech, and Jeremy Corbyn followed.

On Brexit, Mr Rees-Mogg said: "It is the most exciting opportunity for 100 years.

"We again will not be led from overseas, but by ourselves. The responsibility will be ours as individuals and as a nation.

"And individuals' decisions always make life better than decisions taken centrally, because society must be built from the bottom up, not from the top down."

A member of the audience asked: "When will the British public wake up to the threat posed by Jeremy Corbyn?"

The response was typically considered. Said Mr Rees-Mogg: "I shudder at anti-



Suzy Davies, Conservative regional AM for South Wales West with Mr Rees-Mogg.

Semitism, but when the idea for a Holocaust Memorial Day in the United Kingdom was proposed, I did not then see the need for it.

"Now I see why.

"Anti-Semitism is increasing, and is deep-seated in the Left.

"The mural, the painter of which Mr Corbyn praised, showed stereotypes [of Jewish people], the likes of which were used by Communist and Nazi regimes to demonise Jews, and that are fundamentally wicked

"I must ask how could Mr Corbyn support it?"

The question of freedom of speech was raised.

Mr Rees-Mogg said: "I should be free to say what I believe, but freedom of speech is under threat."

"I recognise that people have the right to offend me, to challenge me, because with freedom of speech, there is no democracy. It was freedom of speech, for example, that led to votes for women."

He said that freedom of speech exposes corruption, and expands ideas and horizons.

"Freedom of speech and thought has led to scientific discoveries as well as social change. It was freedom of speech that challenged and overturned scientific and political orthodoxy.

He added a caveat: "But there must be no incitement of violence, or racial or other abuse. Laws are in place to deal with this, but first, we should be willing to 'self-censor'."

"It's called 'good manners'."

The rapt audience could have asked questions all afternoon, and Mr Rees-Mogg would obligingly and thoughtfully answered them, but he had other engagements in the area.

As he left, he again visited each table, this time to say goodbye and to have photographs taken, then more photographs outside with a slightly grey backdrop.

A number of people stopped, or slowed down in the cars, and a lip-reader could discern them saying: "Is that really Jacob Rees-Mogg?"

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Slow news day as Gorgeous George hares off from home

A RUNAWAY* tortoise has been reunited with its Brackla owner after being spotted walking up a path by a member of the public who was heading to the local shops.

He, the tortoise, had escaped on April 3 after sneaking through a fence panel in the garden of his owner, Karen.

The 12-year-old Greek tortoise (*Testudo graeca*), named George, was missing for three days, and was found about a five-minute walk away – for a human – from his home.

George was confined to a box before being collected by an RSPCA employee and taken to the International Tortoise Association in Sully for boarding.

Karen made contact after seeing a message on social media about a missing tortoise, and the



George and Beanie, or Beanie and George.

duo were soon reunited.

Karen, who also owns another tortoise, Beanie, said: "I've been losing sleep with worry, and I'm just so grateful to everyone who helped George."

"I've owned George his whole life, and I'm just to be relieved and happy to have him home."

He was missing for three days, and had ventured about a five-minute walk away from our home, but with a former river-bed of overgrown brambles so near to the back of our

home, thankfully he has come to no harm.

Karen explained that George is named in honour of the now-deceased 'Lonesome George', the Pinta Island tortoise (*Chelonoidis abingdonii*) from the Galapagos Islands that died in 2012.

Lonesome George was an endling, the last of his species. Said Karen: "He's also named after George Clooney as he is a handsome tortoise."

Celia Claypole, of the International Tortoise Association, said:

"George is a very lucky tortoise, as having been on the loose for three days, there are many hazards he could have come across – including roads – but it's just amazing to be involved in a happy ending."

For more information about the International Tortoise Association, visit www.tortoise-sanctuary.co.uk.

VS

*In the broadest sense of the word.

'The responsibility for the use of chemical weapons points one way only' SAYS MP

I'M about to do something which is probably foolish. I'm going to give my opinion on events over the past week in relation to Syria.

I'm aware that many of you won't be reading this until a further five days elapse and new information will have emerged. There will also have been many talking heads on television and debates in Parliament, all of which I will miss. I left for the Balkans last Monday and will arrive back as you are

reading this.

Let me start with Salisbury. Was it agents of the Russian state, M15/6, ISIS, or even AN Other? Who makes Novichok? Who has the capability to transport and administer Novichok and who would dare? Certainly not M15/6, ISIS or AN Other. The British security services have had rogue members who have been double agents and have sold secrets. Even the most rogue of agents could not obtain the nerve agent.

We have experienced terrorist attacks in the

UK carried out by individuals claiming affiliation to ISIS, but they have been crowd-based, to create maximum fear and distress. There is no sign of a mysterious AN Other.

Why would an agency of the Russian state carry out such an attack in the UK? Here in Wales it is easy to miss the large presence of the Russian elite and opposition expatriate community living here.

The UK had become an easy place for Russians to live. A small payment of £2 million will gain you a visa and our lawyers

and accountants will help hide money in accounts and offshore shell companies. The UK has grown comfortable with the influx of Russian wealth.

A mere £160,000 can buy a former deputy finance minister of Mr Putin's, a game of tennis with the Prime Minister or £30,000 brings tea with the Defence Secretary.

An attack on British soil sends out a clear message to dissidents and allies alike, that wherever you may flee to, the Russian state can reach you.

We have much to do clean up our politics, our banking and to identify who the wealth holders are hiding.

Then we move to Syria. There have been 34 recorded uses of chemical weapons in Syria. Of these, 24 have been clearly identified by the UN as having been carried out by the Syrian regime.

We also know that Syria and Russia have carried out barrel bomb attacks on Syrian opposition-held areas where large numbers of civilians have been killed and injured.

Russia opposed the



Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes her monthly report from Westminster for The GEM.

The reprisal attack has now taken place. Smaller in scale than was suggested by tweets, but tweets are not the way to carry out or explain policy.

Our military have demonstrated their ability to carry out targeted assaults with no civilian casualties. The attack was smaller than the previous reprisal attack by the US.

My concern is that reprisals, while emotionally very understandable, do not constitute a strategy.

How we are going to tackle Russian state-sponsored cyber, disinformation, chemical, and economic asymmetrical warfare that falls short of war but is not peace?

We are living with this every day but either just not aware of it, or not willing to acknowledge it is happening.

We know that the Russian state has funded political outsider parties to destabilise politics in many parts of Europe. We now know some of the part this money played in the US election and the British Brexit referendum.

We have listened to a catalogue of outrageous statements and downright lies from Russian spokesmen (yes, they have all been men).

We know how social media had been used to sow distrust, lies and cynicism. We know about the money laundering and the access to political

figures. We know that chemical weapons outlawed since 1925 are back in use.

Time to wake up. Time for a strategy. Time to understand the threat we are facing. It's not going to go away and it's not going to get smaller.

GEM NOTE: This column was written on Sunday, April 15.

Sad news for WI members

THE May meeting of Sker WI was held recently and after the minutes had been read, it was with much sadness we heard one of our members Anne Lodwig had died.

On a brighter note, there is a varied programme coming up with the Link meeting being hosted by Mynydd Cynffig at the Talbot Centre, which should be an enjoyable evening.

There is a birthday supper at the Hi Tide, a trip to the theatre in Swansea and a visit to a vineyard to look forward to.

The entertainment for the evening was Linda and her group of belly dancers. The ladies were ornately and colourfully dressed as seen mainly in eastern countries. The ladies showed the members some of the various dances and movements involved – some had a try and did very well!

The competition for the evening was won by Margaret Owen with Audrey Ellams second and Nora Williams third. The raffle was won by Lauraine and Sarah. Sker WI meets on the second Thursday of each month at St David's Church Hall, Nottage, at 7pm – all welcome.

AV

APPEAL MADE FOR HANDBELL RINGERS

TIME on your hands? Looking for a new hobby?

Here's my story: two years ago, looking for a hobby, I was invited to a handbell practice. I couldn't read music, couldn't tell a crocheted from a hole in the ground, but was handed a lovely shiny bell, told when to ring it. An hour later I was hooked. I laughed so much that night I knew I'd found my new interest in life.

I now have some of the nicest friends I've ever met, gained unforeseen skills (reading and appreciating music) and filled a gap in my life that I never knew existed.

The Old Newtonians team (so named because we practice in the Newton Institute, Porthcawl) is anything but straitlaced. We cover everything from the Beatles to Beethoven. We welcome people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

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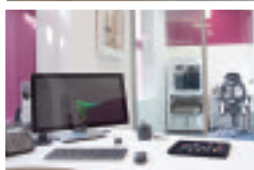
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ENERGY AND GLITZ AS CURTAIN UP TACKLE CLASSIC MUSICAL!



CURTAIN UP Youth Theatre performed *Hairspray Jr* at Maesteg Town Hall from April 12-14.

Members ranged from 6-18 years old and all had the opportunity to display their talents in this very colourful musical which is set in the 1960s.

The show has a powerful message about discrimination which is just as relevant today as it was then.

The lead role of Tracey Turnblad, who dreams of appearing on the *Corny Collins* show, was shared by Niamh Davies and Megan Hill.

Edna Turnblad, Tracey's mother (played by Michael Ball in the West End) was played by Ross Donoghue.

Link Larkin, Tracey's love interest was played by Dylan Morgan. It was



difficult to single out performances as they all did such a fantastic job and made their characters come to life on stage.

Cast: Amber-Evie (Boydell and Charlotte Lenehan); Penny (Emily

Jones, Sophie Thomas, Ellie Sykes, Ella Powys); Seaweed (Elliot Phipps and Harly Videan); Motormouth (Holly Saunders); Little Inez (Ezme Davies and Lily Duncan); Velma (Olivia Richards); Wilbur (Dewi Jones); Corny Collins (Lewis Richards); Prudy (Eryn Rees); Mr Pinky (George Parry); The Dynamites (Ellie Davies, Ella Powys, Sophie Thomas and Ellie Sykes); Principal (Molly Jones and Brooke Haskell).

Professional scenery was supplied by Scenery Hire Cwmbran and costumes were from Ace Costumes, Tredegar, ensuring that audiences were transported back to the 1960s and brought the stage to life.

Curtain Up has a dedicated backstage crew, led by Hywel Morgan, which works extremely hard behind the scenes so that the show runs smoothly.

Hours of work went into making *Hairspray Jr* a success and co-directors Sarah Thomas and Ruth Whelan, together with accompanists Clare Isaac and Richard Hurlock-Norton, are extremely proud of Curtain Up members for rising to the challenges of putting on such a well known show and are looking forward to choosing the next production.

It welcomes new members to join them for their 2019 production.

Contact Curtain Up via Facebook. AL



Photos by Scenic Gallery.



GUILD ENJOYS HISTORY LESSON

MANY Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild members went to the Federation AGM in Cardiff and enjoyed a good buffet lunch and a speaker, Debra John.

Unfortunately, the federation will have to close at the end of May. All the guilds will continue, so don't worry.

Eating out is always popular and our monthly lunch last month was a new place for us – the cafeteria at Pyle Garden Village. We will go there again.

An outing to Llancaich Fawr Manor proved very interesting as many improvements had been made. One member, Maureen, girded herself in armour and Dee's grandson also dressed up in period clothes.

The meeting this

month began yet again on a sad note as members stood in memory of Peggy Vince who had lost her long battle with cancer. Peggy, with her sister Gwen, had been members for 30 years, contributing greatly to the life of the guild and Peggy will be much missed.

Our ever-welcome speaker was Ceri Joseph, who entertained us with the history of our local castles and the battles of the kings and princes around them.

We were shown an amusing cartoon in the form of the Bayeux Tapestry, depicting the Battle of Hastings. As usual Ceri had us in fits of laughter and we all wished she had been our history teacher in school.

The next meeting is on May 9 at 2pm at All Saints Church Hall when Rev Clive Williams will entertain us with music.

DT

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Enjoy a day's golf and help KPC Youth

KPC Youth & Community is holding its 20th annual charity golf day on Friday, June 22 at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

Team entry for teams of four is £160 per team (or take advantage of our Early Bird offer of £140 if paid by end of April 2018). Entry includes coffee on arrival, golf fees and a buffet meal following the round of golf, and entry

into our golf prize competition.

A spokesperson said: "Please come along for a great day's golf and the chance to support a local charity."

"Sponsorship is also sought for raffle and auction prizes or £50 to sponsor a hole. If you can support us that would be really appreciated."

For team entry forms and more details, please contact: Alison on 01656 749219 kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

PW

Care Home Open Day in Bridgend

H C - O N E ' S homes to come together and sing. A spokesperson said: "All are welcome to take part in this free open day, where you can enjoy live entertainment and a 1950s' afternoon tea. The event takes place on from 9am to 2pm at the care home on Coychurch Road, Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 5LP.

CHOD is a national event that gives people the opportunity to learn more about the services where they live..

This year's theme is 'Linking Our Community' and the company has decided to launch a 'big sing', inviting local choirs from across the UK into

WALKERS ARE WARNED ABOUT INCOMING TIDES



RNLI crew prepare for the two people (and dog) to be winched to safety by helicopter. (Photo by Porthcawl RNLI).

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Following Sunday morning training, RNLI crews were paged at 2.17pm to reports of windsurfers in difficulty off Newton Point. Arriving on scene, the D class lifeboat established one windsurfer had made it ashore while his colleague required assistance as his board mast had snapped.

Once safely on board, the casualty was taken ashore at Newton where he was met by Porthcawl Coastguard Unit.

Porthcawl's lifeboat operations manager, Philip Missen said: "Our crews have proved their ability to assist in all types of situations, not only over this busy weekend.

"Also that they work

with other rescue assets to enable the safe rescue of casualties who find themselves in danger around our shores. With tides getting larger all this week, I would ask shore walkers especially to make sure of tide times before they start any walks, particularly east of our station along the cliff bases between Southerndown and Llantwit Major.

"We display tide times and heights 24/7 on our charity's website, www.porthcawl-lifeboat.co.uk/live-streaming.

"It is also possible to view current sea conditions at Porthcawl Breakwater which can give an indication of the sea state along our coastline."

'Bags of fun' at WI

THE April meeting of Southerndown WI was a very relaxed event.

With no speaker to introduce, we had an opportunity to look in detail at all the varied events on offer. Our president, Lyn, welcomed us and told us of birthdays and apologies from absent members before handing over to Judith, who talked us through the details of this year's WI resolution.

There was general agreement to support the resolution, although before the vote was taken it was noted that, as with all campaigns related to 'health', the situation in Wales may not fully reflect that in England, owing to the implementation of health matters being devolved.

We were then updated on the activities of some sub groups before a fun game called 'What's in the bag?'. This involved identifying ordinary household items that were sealed inside fabric bags.

Working in teams there was much laughter and some disagreement – particularly regarding the identification of a rawlplug!

Two teams shared the rather meagre prize of biscuits – but it was the taking part that mattered! Tea and coffee was served as members chatted. This month's coffee morning is on Wednesday, April 25 from 10.30am at Judith's home in Windmill Close, Wick.

The next meeting is on Thursday, May 10 at 7.15pm in the church hall on Southerndown Road, St Brides Major. This will be the annual meeting when we will review the last 12 months and form a committee to take care for the next 12 months.

Members are encouraged to consider joining the committee where you can help to organise our events. A president will be appointed from the committee. We look forward to seeing you.

PM

'Monolingual reader makes common error about Welsh'

IN his letter to The GEM, Mr Turner makes the error, common among monoglots, of believing that learning Welsh is somehow less "useful" than learning other subjects.

I am sure he would join me in disapproving of the conduct of Britons who go on holiday to other countries and expect everyone else to speak English, but his reasons would probably be different.

Experts in language and linguistics will tell you that language is not merely an aid to finding the nearest railway station; it is a social skill.

Many studies have shown that bilingual or multilingual people have the capability to make a greater contribution to society because they are channelled into more diverse communication strategies and thus develop differently; in

other words, their brains are being trained for to think more innovatively.

The benefits of bilingualism have been scientifically proven, and far outweigh any disadvantages.

Some will argue that, if you are going to be bilingual, Welsh is a less useful second language than, say, French. But think about it – when did you last meet a fluent French speaker you could converse with?

Moreover, the UK is not overflowing with people capable of teaching modern languages; fortunately, we have a steady supply of people in Wales who are able to do so.

These are among the reasons why the efforts of recent decades to protect and foster the Welsh language are so admired in other countries.

Mrs D C Fisher, Colwinston.

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Bridgend street market this Saturday

THE next Bridgend street market will be held on Caroline Street this Saturday (April 21) from 10am to 4pm.

A spokesperson said: "there will be a variety of food, craft and entertainment on offer."

Every third Saturday, until October, a range of local traders are selling

their wares at monthly street markets, which have been organised by Bridgend County Borough Council with support from the 'CF31 Bid' group.

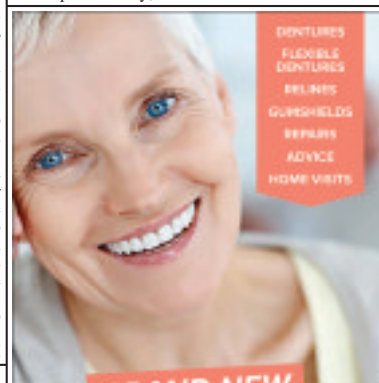
Stallholders include Afal Y Graig Welsh Artisan Cider & Perry, Dough To Go, Wales Ales and Craft Beers, palmist, and Dines by Jill.

PLANT SALE

ON Saturday, April 28, Cowbridge Physic Garden will hold their annual plant sale at Old Hall Gardens, starting at 10am.

This is always a popular event for anyone wishing to enhance and refresh their gardens at spring time. Most of the plants bring sold are grown by the enthusiastic and knowledgeable team of volunteers who keep the Physic Garden in such great shape.

They will be on hand to help, answer questions and encourage you to support the Physic Garden's future (as a charity, the Physic Garden depends on public generosity). There will also be a number of commercial nursery stalls in Old Hall Gardens, so the choice of planting opportunities is wide and varied.



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SPRING IS ON ITS WAY...



National Gardens Scheme

PENLLYN COURT, Cowbridge is taking part in the National Gardens Scheme on Sunday, April 29, from 2pm-6pm.

It is a large family semi-formal walled garden, with an orchard, fruit trees and bulbs, stumpy, mixed plantings of shrubs, herbaceous perennials for all the months of the year, and roses.

There is a vegetable garden and small amount of woodland plantings, a secret garden, all set among the rolling hills of a beautiful estate.

Admission £4 adult, children free.

HERE is a view of the miniature railway line at Parc Slip in Tondur, which was taken on Sunday, March 25, the day the clocks went forward.

A magical sunlit scene, that gives one a feeling of longer days to come.

Judith Holden,
Porthcawl.

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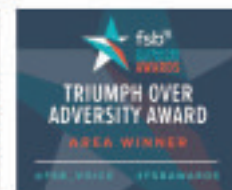


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90 Day Notice	£5,000	£1	1.10%
Cash ISA	£1	£1	1.10%
Cash JISA	£1	£1	2.00%
Young Saver	£1	£1	2.00%
First Adult Saver (only available to customers aged 18 to 32 years old)	£1	£1	1.25%

(Please Note the Sweep Premier account no longer exists and all existing accounts have been transferred to the Personal Premier account)

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* AER Stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and added each year.

* GROSS The Gross rate is the contractual rate of interest before the deduction of income tax.

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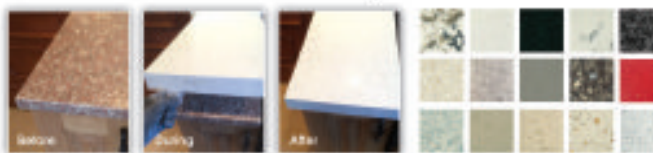
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Local man hopes to get falcon therapy project off the ground

THINK 'therapy', and many minds will jump to lying on a couch or sitting in a group of strangers discussing personal problems, or, more creatively, a spot of painting.

But therapy is a broad church, and takes many forms.

Canine therapy is one branch of animal-assisted therapy (AAT), while equine-assisted therapy (hippotherapy) has been around for donkeys' years.

Its modern incarnations – as practised at, say, the Fortune Centre in the New Forest for young people with learning

disabilities, or Horseback UK in Scotland for Armed Forces' veterans – have been developed from the 1960s onwards.

A Barry man, however, has taken Winston Churchill's adage that "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man" and adapted it.

Mark Brinkworth has replaced 'horse' with 'hawk' for his concept of AAT.

Few could not be moved, even a little envious perhaps, of the soaring swift surety displayed by a raptor.

From the grace and danger of a Peregrine Falcon (look up to the tops of the concrete canyons in towns and

cities; the *Falco peregrinus* has made its home there) diving at its next meal at 200mph, or the remarkable poise of a Kestrel scarcely moving as it hovers, birds of prey are symbols of freedom.

Steve Miller, after all, did not write a song called *Fly Like a Pigeon*...

Mr Brinkworth has a varied background.

He has worked in the field of mental health, and with young people with learning disabilities. He has been a youth worker and an employer consultant.

He has also studied falconry for more than 40 years, has kept and flown both falcons and hawks, and completed a course in falconry.

"I have also spent time working with Falconers in the field, on flying demonstrations, and bird control," said Mr Brinkworth.

He added that he has empathy for those with learning disabilities and mental health issues, but when asked, stressed that he is not a therapist.

"That's right; I'm not

a therapist, but my hawks will be, when my idea gets off the ground."

Mr Brinkworth said he is testing the water to see how much interest his idea for raptor therapy in the Vale garners, and will form a charity if sufficient interest is shown.

"I know that a specific type of therapy does not work for every individual, but perhaps if hawk and falcon therapy is added to the raft of therapeutic interventions available, then it can do good for some people."

He said that the aim will be to work with anyone who has a love of birds, especially birds of prey.

"As with any form of therapy, we will discuss whether it will be suitable for an individual with that person, their support workers and medical professionals, and their families."

That, admits Mr Brinkworth, is some way off.

"First, I need to see what interest there is for this. I am not aware of anyone else using

hawks and falcons in therapy, so it really is a major, and innovative, project."

[GEM readers might be familiar with Helen Macdonald's memoir *H is for Hawk* in which she describes how rearing and training a young goshawk provided a form of therapy following the death of her father.]

"I have experience of setting up and managing projects, but I can't do this alone."

Mr Brinkworth said that, ideally, anyone wishing to get involved will have a combination of passion – both for falcons and hawks, and for helping others – and experience in charities and projects.

He is inviting anyone who feels they can help to get in touch with him.

"I'd like this to work, and I think it can. I'm 60 now and not getting any younger, so it would be good to leave falcon and hawk therapy in the Vale and beyond as my legacy."

Interested? Mark Brinkworth can be contacted at hebog200@gmail.com. AJ

OFFERING ADVICE ON BEING A VOLUNTEER

GLAMORGAN VOLUNTARY SERVICES (GVS) will be hosting a mini volunteering event in Cowbridge Lesser Hall on Thursday, April 26 from 11am to 1pm.

Additional events will be held later in the year in Llantwit Major and Penarth, so contact GVS for dates.

A spokesman said: "Come along to the volunteering event to embark on a new adventure as a volunteer and open up a world of opportunities. You will be able to chat directly with local

volunteering providers and find the right opportunity for you.

"Volunteering is a good way to get to know your community better, meet new people, and gain new experiences. You'll also boost your chances of finding paid work."

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Reader voices concern over male choirs

As a feminist, and one pretty new to south Wales (I live in Cardiff, but work across the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend), I read with shock the April Fool's Day on-line story "Protest taking place in King's Square to rename Barry".

Shocked because it was such a well-written, witty, satirical piece that you don't see in local press especially in Wales, where the press is generally left-leaning – that poked fun at a sacred cow or two yet was believable. More outlandish proposals than that seem to be policy for our politicians and groups espousing a cause.

But it made me think, maybe a little mischievously to begin with, why, as a woman, can I not join a male voice choir?

The likes of Madeleine Moon, Jane Hutt, Carwyn Jones and Chris Elmore – our elected representatives – are so keen to pontificate on and champion equality and diversity, but have seemingly ignored one of the last bastions of male privilege, misogyny and racial prejudice.

I am a black British (third generation) woman, and I would like to know from our MPs and AMs what they propose doing to tackle the lack of gender and ethnic diversity in the male voice choirs in the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend, and why so far they have done nothing to challenge it.

Each time I see a photograph of a male voice choir, it is a sea of white male faces looking back at me. Yes, occasionally it might have a female musical director or accompanist, or guest vocalist, but that is it.

How do these choirs recruit? How do they plan to tackle the gender and ethnic imbalance? Have they reached out to the LGBT+ communities, those perhaps who follow Judaism, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism to recruit? Bridgend Male Choir, for example, has received public money from the Arts Council of Wales, yet has no equality or diversity position, while Cowbridge Male Voice Choir is a registered charity!

I do not want to read of wishy-washy excuses

such as 'Join a female choir', 'Well, look at the cathedral choirs. They are all male', 'It's culture (culture, as well as causing me to remove the safety from my Browning, is the last refuge of the scoundrel)', 'There are very few BME in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan' (but plenty of women I understand) or 'Anyone can join', because clearly women cannot and BME do not.

So, politicians and choirs, I am all ears because it is time to change.

Unless, of course, the choirs say that any man or woman can join, so long as they possess a rich, tenor, baritone, or bass voice, or 'identify' as a white male.

Lizzie Ahouré, Cardiff

All persons and organisations referred to in Ms Ahouré's letter were contacted to respond to points made.

Ogmore's MP Chris Elmore and AM Huw Irranca-Davies issued a joint response.

"Many of the communities we represent across Ogmore, and indeed throughout Wales, have a proud history of male voice choirs."

"They, along with many other types of singing groups, are part and parcel of the cultural fabric of Wales."

"In our constituency, there is a wealth of opportunities to join choirs, whether these be female-only, mixed, male voice or children's choirs, there really is something for everyone to get involved with."

"We're proud of the fact that the choirs do a great deal to be open and accessible to people seeking to join their groups and work closely with other local choirs to signpost people to the group which may best suit their musical skillset."

"The Arts Council for Wales supports many different organisations and has a proud record of promoting diversity through the community projects they support across Wales. From a simple search on the Arts Council's website, it's clear to see that they regularly provide funding to a range of choirs, including mixed-gender groups."

"Male voice choirs clearly exist in this manner for stylistic reasons, as do the large number of female-only choirs, and we will continue to support a diverse range of different musical organisations across Ogmore."

Ryan Wood, Musical Director of Bridgend Male Choir, also responded.

"I find it quite offensive to read a letter that is so full of assumptions and misunderstanding."

"There is a clear lack of knowledge and not even a nod to an awareness of the role of the male voice choir in the working-class history of Wales."

"This lack of knowledge does not apply with

A sad day for VEST users

WHAT a sad day for VEST bus users, which has been running a service to Cardiff for old age pensioners and disabled people since 1997.

For some people, this is the only opportunity to get to the capital and

to go to the shops – and also to meet other people.

Unfortunately, due to falling numbers, VEST is ending this facility as from April 18, affecting pensioners from the Llantwit Major area.

The elderly are picked up from their home and returned to their house after a few enjoyable hours away, giving a feeling of some freedom.

So, if you are elderly or disabled, please think about using this valuable service. Get in touch with VEST to try and reinstate this service.

VEST is Voluntary Emergency Service Transport, telephone 029 2049 0325. Mrs Elke Jones, Llantwit Major

the funding bodies that so readily support these organisations; they will be more than aware of the importance of the role of the male voice choir in Welsh culture.

"The singing voice is a powerful instrument and the sound of a Welsh male voice choir affects millions of people on an emotional level."

"In the same way that Wales has hundreds of male voice choirs, built up initially around mining communities, there is also an abundance of female voice choirs specifically for women and, indeed, mixed voice choirs for men and women – another genre formed in small communities with its foundation in the many well attended chapels which adorned the valleys and towns around Wales."

"As a man, would I be allowed to join the Women's Institute? Or perhaps the writer of the letter could apply to become a full participating Freemason."

"In terms of the recruitment of members from LGBT+ communities and those who follow Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism or Islam, the majority of our recruitment is done via social media which is available to everyone who wants to follow the choir as well as by word of mouth and indeed, Bridgend Male Choir would welcome members from all of these communities."

"In fact, as a gay man myself, I have personal experience where the choir's management team dealt very positively with a former chorister who exhibited homophobic tendencies towards me and I feel proud to be involved with a choir who readily dealt with this matter with no collusion and in a totally appropriate manner."

"The choir also has an equal opportunities policy written into its constitution and has just appointed its first Honorary Lady Member in recognition of the importance of the support she provides to the choir."

"The diverse nature of arts and culture in the valleys is something I'm immensely proud of and I, and my peers, support each other as much as possible."

Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon responded:

"Choirs are part of the landscape of Wales."

"We have many different choirs, from schools to singing to combat dementia. There are mixed voice choirs and there are all women and all male choirs. The risk we run when objecting to one particular male or female only organisation is that soon we will no longer have Women's Institutes, Towns Women's Guilds, Soroptomists, or

Mothers' Unions. A sea of female faces."

"There needs to be space for people to mix, enjoy and participate in a range of activities – not all of which need to be mixed sex."

A spokesperson for and from Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, said it was considering a full response, adding: "[membership of] Cowbridge Male Voice Choir is open to all."

Comment on social media was swift.

On Facebook, Claire Prince wrote: "Oh gawd...the type of feminist that sets us all back a hundred years!" while Serena Williams-Nash wrote: "It's called male voice choir for a reason you stupid sexist Barry people for gods sake grow up and by the way I am a female [sic]."

Sylvia Phillips commented: "I think it's just mischief making on the part of the author," which Lizzie Ahouré herself said.

However, this mischief-making view was upheld, indeed expanded upon, by A Forbes on The GEM's website.

The commentator wrote: "Fantastic! Hats off to Lizzy [sic] for her Jedi Master level trolling of loony E & D advocates."

"Their cri de coeur is 'Equal rights and opportunities for all, especially women (but not in all cases because our culture is more important)'."

"Incidentally, Ms Moon is wrong, again. Men can join the Mothers' Union."

GEM note: comment was requested from AMs Carwyn Jones and Jane Hutt, but none was received by the time the paper went to print.

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Two routes under consideration for new M4-A48 link road

TWO possible routes for a new road linking the M4 with the A48 and Cardiff Airport have been unveiled following work undertaken for the Vale Council and funded by Welsh Government, along with proposals for a new railway station and park and ride facility.

The routes, which would also connect junction 34 of the motorway with employment sites in the Vale, are being presented as part of a public consultation exercise designed to get feedback on the possible options.

A Vale Council spokesperson said: "The scheme would improve access from the M4 and the valleys into the heart of the Vale and western Cardiff along with Cardiff Airport and the surrounding enterprise zone, and unlock further economic development in the area."

Both routes would connect just south of junction 34 of the M4 to the A48 at Sycamore Cross and would use a section of existing road to minimise impacts on nearby woodland.

One would bypass the village of Pendoylan to the east, while the other route would bypass

Pendoylan to the west.

The estimated costs for each scheme are £81.025 million and £58.666m respectively. The eastern route is potentially more expensive given the need to take account of the floodplain.

Both would be single carriageway roads and would include segregated walking and cycling lanes and would allow for a new railway station and park and ride facility to be built close to junction 34, at an additional cost of around £25m.

Cllr John Thomas, Leader of the Council, said: "Our goal is to make the Vale a more attractive place to live, work, and do business. This scheme will achieve not only this but also bring huge benefits to the wider economy."

"Cardiff Airport is of great national significance and its growth and future success, together with the Enterprise Zone, will be vital in fuelling economic development in South Wales."

"Both of the proposed routes would also make a real difference to the lives of those living in this part of the Vale."

"The lack of an appropriate transport link between the M4 and A48 has turned the roads connecting Pendoylan and the surrounding villages into rat runs for

commuters.

"This is not good for anybody. The current road is also unfit for cyclists and pedestrians."

"We have already worked closely with local communities, via our appointed consultants, Arcadis, to draw up these initial proposals. Now we want to hear the views of as many people as possible to help decide the best way forward."

Residents and other interested groups are

being encouraged to find out more about the proposals and have their say online via the Council's website. The plans, full consultants' report, and consultation response form can all be found at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Plans will also be on show to the public for the next four weeks at the Vale Council offices.

To see the route east of Pendoylan, go to <http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Our%20Council/consultation/J34-to-A48/Proposed-M4-J34-Link-Eastern-Alignment.pdf>

'Eastern Vale faces gridlock' SAYS DINAS BY-PASS CHAIR

"THE proposed Dinas Powys Bypass will be of considerable benefit to the whole of the Eastern Vale, including Barry, Penarth, Llandough and Sully – not just Dinas Powys," explained Rod Harrod, chair of the By-Pass Steering Group this week.

"Nobody mentions that over half the 10,000 new homes apportioned to the Vale by the Welsh Government are within three miles of Dinas

Powys. Nearly 60 per cent of them have yet to be built.

"The Local Development Plan, initiated by the previous Vale administration, clearly states that 'highway improvement schemes will be required' to mitigate the impact of any development on the highway network."

"They must 'deliver appropriate improvements not to cause unacceptable impact on highway safety or exacerbate traffic congestion'."

"But no such plans were put in place in the drafting of the LDP that ensure the right developments have the right infrastructure to support most of the junctions or highways in the Eastern Vale."

Eventually, there will be 4,000 new homes at Barry Waterfront, 125 at the Bendricks, 500 at the Cog in Sully, another 576 in Cosmeston. Another 145 are to be built in Lower Penarth, 80 already at St Josephs and 55 at Headlands School, Penarth.

There will be 258 houses built on three different sites in Llandough – that's without 215 at St Cyres school, Dinas Powys, 70 at Caerleon Road, 50 at Cross Common Road and the 18 already at Chapters at Penny-Turpin. These and other sites were put in place by the previous administration.

"It's fine dumping this extra traffic onto existing roads, but it all aims to get somewhere. The A4055 through Dinas Powys is the only part of the Strategic Highway network in the Vale that doesn't have a by-pass around its primary settlement," said Rod Harrod.

"One councillor in the last administration said the emphasis must be on

cycling and walking. What about the elderly, infirm and those with young children? Another councillor claimed there were many by-pass objects but later admitted he wasn't against the concept."

"Of course increasing train capacity would be ideal but the Metro isn't likely to reach the Vale line for at least 10 years. Even then there are less than 20 park-and-ride facilities at Eastbrook station and none at Dinas Powys – and no available land for more."

"There are several proposals to increase the capacity of the Merrie Harrier that will be 400 per cent over-capacity by 2026. We've suggested various by-pass junctions along proposed routes for a by-pass."

"Several would relieve Sully of traffic from the soon-to-be built estate at the Cog, but ours are only suggestions. It's up to the officers and engineers to design everything. It's a pity a handful of armchair critics want to pounce on ideas without suggesting anything themselves."

"No specific route had yet been determined. The process is still going through stage two of the five-part Welsh Government evaluation."

"Every political party has recognised the need for the by-pass. However, the previous administration in the Vale discounted it from their draft Local Development Plan on the grounds there wouldn't be sufficient funds before the plan runs out in 2026, and so deleted it."

"However, if the green light wasn't given until 2026 it would be at least three if not five years before it would be built – 12 years from now. The whole of the Eastern Vale will have been gridlocked years before then."

Cowbridge Livestock Market: a speck of hope?

IT appears that farmers in the Vale of Glamorgan can keep a speck of hope when it comes to the livestock market in Cowbridge.

The Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) has long been in support of Cowbridge Livestock Market, recognising that the closure of the mart would remove a vital lifeline from the town and also make it necessary for farmers to travel far greater distances to sell their stock.

For many years now its future has been hanging in the air.

A myriad of proposals, schemes, and discussions later, Creative Rural Communities, the Vale Council's rural Local Action Group on which it sits, has committed funding for a feasibility study to identify the needs of farmers.

This is following news that the Vale Council has decided to re-develop the site on which the current livestock market is situated. Indeed, in 2013 the FUW contributed to a feasibility study in a bid to convince the Vale Council that it was profitable and vital to keep the mart open.

The recent tender process resulted in five applications from



by Rachel Saunders of the Farmers' Union of Wales

consultancy groups, and following a series of meetings and interviews with the council, farming unions, Young Farmers' Clubs and the current market operators, a local firm, PER Consulting, has been appointed to lead on the work. (See article below for more information).

The study will generally be looking at all aspects of how, where and what farmers sell. At the moment, it is only a sheep market (however, the market has historically been a cattle market, hence the name of Cowbridge). This means that cattle farmers have to travel to Carmarthen, Brecon or Raglan to sell their stock – the addition of cattle to the market would therefore certainly be a welcome change, if

it comes to fruition.

Consideration of the size and location of a new multi-purpose facility is, of course crucial, as well as any other commercial activities that could ensure future viability of the market site.

Funding, naturally, will be a huge issue and although some public funding may be obtainable, the consultants will need to look at commercial options on the site as well.

We have had many discussions on how these plans can benefit the wider rural community as well as farmers, therefore the study will consider whether commercial facilities could be built for learning, training, office space in addition to traditional agricultural functions.

The most interesting discussions, though, have been around whether processing facilities could be incorporated, thereby shortening the supply chain in this area.

All options are open and we will be sharing a survey shortly to help develop the plans further. Better watch this space.

What do GEM readers think? Please send your correspondence, with full contact details, to editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk.

Farmers' views sought on plans for the Vale

A STUDY has been commissioned which aims to identify the needs of farmers and other rural businesses in and around the Vale.

While the Vale Council considers the future regeneration of the existing livestock market and surrounding area in Cowbridge, further potential for a new food and farming hub is being explored.

"The study," said a spokesperson, "is intended to provide specific insight to the needs of local farmers, smallholders and other rural businesses and identify the type of facility and range of services that may be required to create a viable, multi-purpose livestock market, rural hub, or both in the Vale."

Project partners, including the council, FUW, NFU, Young Farmers and the current livestock market operators, have appointed PER Consulting, a local

business with experience in rural development, to lead on the independent report which will identify whether a viable alternative to the market is needed in order to meet the needs of farmers in the area.

The study has been supported by The Creative Rural Communities Local Action Group which is funded by Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the Welsh Government, and by the Vale Council.

Abi Reader, a local farmer and member of the Creative Rural Communities board, said: "It is important that we explore new

ideas to support local farmers and find innovative ways to add value to our high-quality local produce."

The study will be completed by the end of August and PER Consulting will be holding face-to-face meetings with farmers, smallholders and rural business, as well as conducting online surveys.

Anyone interested in responding to the survey can obtain further details at www.creativeruralcommunities.co.uk or contact the consultants directly at keith@perconsulting.co.uk.

OM

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY The hives are gearing up for warmer weather

SPRING is definitely beginning to show and despite the somewhat persistent gloomy wet weather, many flowers are now appearing.

With the longer days and the forecasted rise in temperatures, there is going to be much more external activity from the bees.

Some feeding with liquid sugar has been carried out to eke out the dwindling winter stores and internal activity is very well underway.

The queens are laying, and I am aware of this because in the debris that falls into the under floor trays that I have on each colony, there are dead adult and immature Varroa Mites.

The presence of the pale immature mites indicates that the mites are aware of the expansion in the brood area, so as the bee numbers start to rise, so do the mite numbers.

As yet, the only colony that has been opened up has been the small colony in a nucleus box (half size hive). They are very strong and do need to go into a full sized hive now. A dry day plus a temperature of 14°C provided ideal conditions for the transfer to take place.

How was the transfer accomplished? The nucleus box and its bees were lifted just to one side of the stand that they have occupied all winter, then onto the empty stand a full-size national brood box on a mesh floor took its place – there are no frames in it yet.

The cover of the nuc-box was now removed, exposing the six frames and bees within. One by one, each frame and its company of bees was gently lifted out and placed into the centre of the new box. Two of these frames contained larvae and sealed cells containing larvae going through their metamorphosis stage.

Two more contained what was left of their winter store of food and two were just starting to be used for more storage.

This moving of the bees and frames took less than two minutes to accomplish, and more frames were added to bring the total to 11. Many bees were still in the box and many were flying around the new box.

To complete the transfer, the nuc-box was picked up and turned upside down over the new hive and gently shaken to encourage those bees within to leave and this they very obligingly did.

A feeding box containing liquid sugar was placed on top of the frames and the hive was closed up.

With the promised better conditions to come, this colony will expand and be thankful for the extra room. Roll on summer!

HAROLD WILLIAMS

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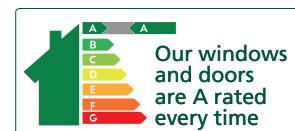
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Any 7 windows	£3,843	£44.02	£4,543	£52.03
Any 8 windows	£4,392	£50.30	£5,192	£59.46
Any 9 windows	£4,941	£56.59	£5,841	£66.90
Any 10 windows	£5,490	£62.88	£6,490	£74.33
Any 11 windows	£6,039	£69.16	£7,139	£81.76
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Out & About with The GEM

Rampage – 'Film as fast food' says our film critic

ANYONE doubting Dwayne Johnson's seemingly bulletproof box office credentials after the misfire that was *Baywatch* need only look at *Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle* for proof of his drawing power.

Currently Sony's biggest film ever, with box office returns of just shy of \$1 billion worldwide, it's testament to the popularity of Johnson. His latest film sees

him tackle the world of computer-games-turned-films in *Rampage*. Johnson plays primatologist Davis Okoye, a man who shares a bond with George, an albino silverback gorilla who has been in his care since he rescued the young orphan from poachers.

But when a genetic experiment goes wrong it mutates George into a raging creature who is only getting bigger and more dangerous, and when it's discovered there are other genetically-altered animals, Okoye teams with geneticist Kate Caldwell (Naomie

Harris) to find an antidote to try and save George – and stop the other creatures...

The *Rampage* computer game saw players take control of gigantic monsters battling to stay alive as they're attacked by the military, with the aim of reducing a city to rubble. Hardly the most auspicious of properties to make the dreaded leap from game to film, yet *Rampage* the film is a silly, fun blockbuster that will occupy your brain for its running time before leaving, likely to never return.

The 'creatures destroying cities' aspect is present and correct, but what gives it more than just sheer spectacle is the presence of Dwayne Johnson, who proves yet again that no matter how dumb the subject matter, his

charisma can more often than not save the day.

There are times where the film attempts to wring more out of itself than just a big blockbuster – the backstory to Davis and George meeting, the thread of animals being experimented on by an evil corporation for nefarious means – but ultimately these fade into the mix, the big selling point being monster smackdowns and Johnson.

To that end the film is a success – the action sequences are well-executed (in particular a space-set introduction that gets the plot moving), and while cities being reduced to rubble is becoming far too common on film (and far too close to home given recent world events), director



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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Brad Peyton (who directed Johnson in *San Andreas*, another city-destroying CGI spectacular) knows how to make a blockbuster film sing.

As does that man Johnson – with

charisma and charm to burn, you could easily sit and watch him read out football scores, and while ostensibly a primatologist here, he's essentially playing another version of his persona, which if you're a fan, is no bad thing at all.

It's also his character who gets the most meat on the narrative bone, his back story intriguing, while the rest of the cast sink or swim based more on their personalities than their thinly-written characters.

It works for Jeffrey Dean Morgan, who takes his *Walking Dead* character for a spin on the side of the angels with a witty and cool turn, less so for Naomie Harris who is walking plot exposition, while Malin Akerman and Jake Lacy's nefarious

corporate wrongdoers are a complete waste of time (the latter in particular, whose performance is currently the most irritating of the year so far).

But then these films are never sold, nor do they depend, on quality turns – it's all about the spectacle and *Rampage* certainly has that in spades.

Its disposability certainly means its not going to feature in any end-of-year top tens, it's most definitely not going to be under consideration for any awards, but then there are films for that.

Rampage is a film that just wants the audience to be entertained, to not think too much and

enjoy Dwayne Johnson battling a genetically-modified crocodile. And to that end it succeeds – just don't go pretending that its anything that will linger once the end credits appear.

VERDICT: Film as fast food, *Rampage* is the sort of silly and fun blockbuster that makes for perfect disposable entertainment. Carried by the charm of Dwayne Johnson and some gloriously daft action sequences, it will keep your mind occupied and entertained for its running time and no more – which isn't a bad thing. *Enjoyable.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *San Andreas* (2015), *Kong: Skull Island* (2017).

Model show to commemorate RAF 100 in Barry

BARRY War Museum commemorates the 100-year anniversary of the Royal Air Force with a special RAF-themed model show on Sunday, April 22.

The display will show a wide selection of RAF aircraft models, ranging from early bi-planes to

current state-of-the-art jet fighters. The museum hopes to have over 100 model aircraft on show as well as other scale models.

Barry War Museum is situated at Barry Island Railway Station.

The event begins at 10am. Admission is free and refreshments will be available to purchase from the railway station's cafe.

What's on, and where?

Rhoose Community Cinema
The next screening at Rhoose Community Cinema will be *Murder on the Orient Express* (PG) on Saturday, April 21 at 6.45pm in the Community Centre, Stewart Road.

All tickets £5; contact Jo on 07986907151 for further information.
Councillors' surgery
THE Llantwit First Independent Councillors will be holding a surgery at the Heritage Centre,

Town Hall, Llantwit Major on Saturday, April 21 from 9.30am-11.30am.

Residents who have any issue to raise are welcome to attend.

Valeways walks
ON Sunday, April 22 at 2pm, 'Round of golf and glacier walk', starting at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys CF64 4BT.

On Wednesday, April 25 at 10.30pm, the Cosmeston Coffee Shop Strollers meet outside the information office at Cosmeston Country Park.

Also on April 25 at

2.30pm, the Llantwit Major Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the town hall car park.

On Thursday, April 26 at 10am, 'Lots of history', a six to seven mile walk, starts at the Bush Inn, St Hilary, CF71 7DP.

Spring Fayre
AGE CONNECTS Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, Holt Road, Barry, is holding its annual spring fayre on Tuesday, April 24 from 10am to 12 noon.

The fayre will be opened by Jane Hutt AM, and admission is

free. Stalls include cakes, bric-a-brac, crafts and refreshments will be available.

Proceeds of the fayre go to Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop. Donations of bric-a-brac and raffles can be brought in week before the fayre. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Horticultural Society
THE next meeting of the Llantwit Major Horticultural Society will be on Wednesday, April 25 at 7.30pm when Kevin Thomas will be giving a demonstration on hanging baskets.

New members and guests always welcome.

Jumble sale
THE 1st Dinas Powys Scout Group jumble sale is at 1.30pm on Saturday, April 28 at the Scout Hall Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4AG.

Admission 50p. Children free.

Craft sale
Y BONT is holding craft sale in aid of the children's nursery which takes place at Cowbridge Lesser Hall on May 5 from 10am.

National Garden Scheme starts year with tulip displays

AFTER the early spring bulbs are over, tulips arrive to bring a cheery array of colour to many National Garden Scheme gardens.

There are around 90 gardens with Tulip displays across the country for visitors to seek inspiration from or just enjoy a lovely spring walk.

The Vale has the beautiful Slade Gardens at Southerndown, open with lovely tulip and other spring flower displays.

Hidden away, Slade Garden is an unexpected jewel to discover next to the sea with views overlooking the Bristol

Channel. The garden tumbles down a valley protected by a belt of woodland.

In front of the house are delightful formal areas, a rose and clematis pergola and herbaceous borders.

From terraced lawns, great sweeps of grass stretch down the hill enlivened by spring bulbs and fritillaries. Opening on April 21 and 22 between 2pm and 5.30pm, entrance is £4.50, children are free, and there will be teas and cakes as well.

If you're on the move and looking for a garden, download the National Garden Scheme app and find a garden near you in an instant. Visit www.ngs.org.uk to find out more.

Bach choir

CARDIFF Bach Choir's spring concert will be held at Llandaff Cathedral on Saturday, April 21 at 7.30pm.

The programme includes the *Petite Messe Solennelle* by Gioachino Rossini and *Messe Solennelle* by Louis Vierne, under the direction of Luke Spencer.

The concert will also include organ works by Vierne, played by Philip Aspdon on the recently-restored cathedral organ, which also features in the two choral works.

Tickets available at the door and full details can be found at www.cardiffbachchoir.org.uk

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Warming up for film night in Llantwit!

IT'S not just the weather outside that's increasingly balmy – the temperature in the Llantwit Major Library is also becoming positively cosy, despite the problems of recent weeks.

The last two Film Club meetings have been cancelled because it has proved difficult to replace a rogue part of the faulty central heating system and we couldn't ask our regular audience to bring blankets and hot water bottles as well as their usual cushions!

However, we are back to normal now and celebrate the fact, as usual, on

the first Tuesday of the month, that's Tuesday May 1, doors will be open at 7.15pm for a prompt start at 7.30pm.

Then there's another May Day celebration, this time of the life of a globally-famous British scientist. A tour-de-force starring Eddie Redmayne, the film is part biopic and part love story and we can promise you that this time, you really will need a hanky in your pocket.

We will keep your seat on a first-come, first served basis and it is yours for the price of a raffle ticket, so drop into the library soon to make sure of yours, or ring 01446 792700 to add your name to the list.

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Local woman conquers her 'yo yo' weight problems... AND LOOKS TO THE FUTURE



Sarah before...



Sarah now.

A BARRY woman, Sarah Creasey, has told the story – in unsparing detail – of how her struggles with her weight affected her life.

Finally, she feels that she has conquered her demons, and wants to help inspire others by passing on her experiences in a new Slimming World class.

This is Sarah's story..

Throughout my life, there has been one constant. My weight problem.

Life situations have never been judged by the value of my achievement, but rather my dress size on the day.

As an overweight teenager I hid behind baggy jeans and over-sized tops, but at university my weight absolutely ballooned! I didn't know how to eat, so I'd starve all day, then gorge on take-aways at night.

I hid my anxieties about my weight by joining the rugby team and downing pints of cider. I pretended that I didn't want to be 'girlie'. I had a boyfriend who said he loved me just as I was and proved it by bringing me food and drink!

My first visit to Slimming World was back in 1993. I was 19 and was mortified when the scales read 15 stone 7 pounds! I will never forget my elation at losing 7lb in week one, 4lb in week 2 and my first stone by week 4. When I reached a healthier weight for my 5ft 9 frame of around 12 stone, I left.

The weight stayed off for years... until the day I found out I was pregnant. I started eating for two on day one. I convinced myself that I wasn't getting fat. I was pregnant! But when I weighed 18 and a half stone after the baby was born, the truth was inevitable!

World... and by the time my bundle of joy was 18 months old, I was back to a healthy, happy weight.

However, the cycle repeated itself when my second child was born, and this time I was ashamed to go back to the slimming group.

I spent five years living a miserable existence. I didn't want to go to parties because I couldn't find clothes to fit. I should have been full of energy, looking trendy and enjoying my life... but I was

beyond unhappy.

I set up my own theatre company and threw myself into that – I loved seeing young, beautiful people performing on the stage and prided myself in being a vital part of that performance even though I was hiding at the back in an XXXL T-shirt.

The world became a much darker place for me when my marriage crumbled. It was all very mutual and friendly, but that didn't stop it being a difficult time. Reading a text message from my ex-husband's mobile phone from a female friend asking about his 'fat wife' literally destroyed me.

She hadn't acknowledged my degree or intelligence.

She hadn't acknowledged what a hard-working and loving mum I was.

She hadn't acknowledged the large scale theatre productions I was producing and directing.

She ONLY acknowledged my fat.

So I took out a bank loan of £10,000 in 2006 and booked myself in for a gastric band.

I honestly believed that this was the only answer. And for the first year it was... I lost 2 stone quite quickly and committed to band tightening every few months to keep it effective. I met a gorgeous new partner and got married weighing around 14 stone in 2008. I knew my weight was heading in the right direction and was delighted that I'd made such a fantastic life decision – well worth the cost!

But then the problems started.

Nobody told me that to keep losing weight with a band, you have to keep tightening it. It costs around about £120 every time and for days, you take sips of water, then build up to soft foods (with the capacity of baby food) and finally build up to hard foods such as pasta, bread, sausages etc

There were so many side effects.

- I couldn't ever eat a meal with my friends and family. Even a small mouth full of food would leave me running to the toilet to be sick.

- I could only take the tiniest sips of water so started to feel quite dehydrated.

- I suffered from terrible acid reflux and simply lying down would make me feel like I was going to drown.

- The constant vomiting was causing my teeth to

rot.

I was living as an enforced bulimic. I was starving. I was dehydrated and I was so very tired.

I had to make a change. And so I removed fluid from my band enabling me to eat and drink. Immediately, I felt healthier and rested. But the weight started to creep back.

By Christmas 2016 I was back up to 14-and-a-half-stone. The shame was back. The self-loathing was back. The desperation was back.

I knew how to eat well from my past Slimming World experiences so I made a decision to stick to the plan and weigh myself once a week in the chemists. And I started well – I lost over a stone by the summer – but then the weight loss slowed right down.

It struck me that I needed to return to Slimming World. I needed to socialise with like-minded people.

And so I went back. And the second I walked through those doors, I felt like I'd come home. I just knew that with the support of my group, I could really do it. I've never reached a target weight at Slimming World before – I usually leave when I get 'close enough' – but there was no way this was going to happen this time!

I proudly reached my target weight on February 4, 2018. The picture shows the difference.

Food optimising is a way of life now... It's just what I do – and it's so easy!

I'm desperate to continue to food optimise for life ... and encourage others to do the same! I owe an incredible amount of gratitude to my inspiring consultant, Martin Woodsford. He's changed my life and inspired me to reach out and change the lives of others!

I'll be starting my own group on Tuesday, April 24 at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, Barry, CF62 7EU. My first ever new members talk will start at 5.30pm and I'd love to welcome you! I'm so excited about this new journey into a healthy, slimmer summer. I'd love you to walk with me!

Call me on 07917 881220 or find me on facebook @Sarah Creasey if you want to find out more!

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Men's shed gets Lottery donation

THE Men's Shed movement started in Australia and it has been very successful in its entirety.

The concept is aimed at predominately men, but each individual shed has the power to involve other gender if they want to. It has evolved through Ireland and is growing now throughout Wales at an incredibly successful rate.

Members include people suffering with depression, Parkinson's, diabetes and other mental health issues.

Chairman Keith Johnson said: "We also support, as part of our remit, lonely and isolated individuals who have found themselves in a withdrawn situation, usually people of the mature age."

"If you imagine, the shed is a haven for people to talk, have banter and make things in our case, which, as a whole, is a very positive experience."

"We have been blessed with having our Lottery grant which, in an indirect way, the public is paying for, so many thanks from us all."

On Thursday, April



Members of Coytrahen Men's Shed with their Lottery grant. (Photo by Scenic Gallery).

12 we had our Lottery grant presentation from Huw Irranca-Davies and what a fantastic day it was. Other sheds in the area were invited so that they could get to know us and seek advice.

"Compliments were flying around, and food and drink were plentiful, and thanks to Bernie, in particular, for all the lovely cakes he made."

If you would like to find out more about our House Martin shed, go to our Facebook site (The House Martins Coytrahen)

Reunited after 50 years – thanks to The GEM



Some of Aberkenfig WI's Easter bonnets.

Educational visit by charity for homeless inspires pupils at Maes yr Haul

LOCAL homeless charity, Emmaus South Wales, recently visited Maes yr Haul Primary School in Broadlands with a presentation about the work of the charity.

The year-5 and 6 pupils who attend the school have recently been studying the issue of homelessness and social exclusion, and wanted to hear how a local charity is helping people facing these issues.

Emmaus South Wales marketing coordinator, Georgia Tandy, visited the school to give the presentation to more than 100 students.

Georgia was a former pupil of Maes Yr Haul School and was delighted to return to inspire and educate the next generation.

She said: "The children were so engaged and interested in the work of Emmaus and were shocked to know that our community home, Nant Lais, is only a 10-minute walk away from the school."

The presentation illustrated key information such as how people find themselves homeless, what Emmaus South Wales does to

help people facing homelessness and also their solidarity work.

It was also an interactive session, with the children answering lots of questions in return for an Emmaus South Wales-themed prize.

The children asked questions such as 'What if someone sleeping on the street doesn't want help from you?', 'Who helps homeless individuals who have children?' and 'Are there other Emmaus Communities?'

Georgia added: "Just a day after the presentation, a parent shared with me how much the presentation had inspired her child. So much so, they had to go straight to our Superstore to have a look around. It was so brilliant to hear the presentation had made an instant impact!"

If any pupils or teachers in primary, secondary schools or colleges would like Emmaus to speak about their work, email georgia@emmausouthwales.org.uk or visit our website www.emmaus-southwales.org.uk.

Whist and 'yarn bombing' for the over 50s at Evergreen Hall

Come and try some of the new workshops and classes at Evergreen Hall, a venue in Angel Street, right in the heart of Bridgend, especially for people over the age of 50.

From exercise and relaxation, art and crafts to dance and whist, there is something to interest everyone.

On Mondays, there is a new book club run by local author Mike Ross, where you can read and discuss excerpts from books with like-minded people.

Every Wednesday is Creative Wednesday with a range of different art-based activities such as painting, drawing, textiles, upcycling and

clay. Throughout April and May you can be part of making a 'story quilt' using old photos and fragments of vintage fabric.

'Yarn Army' is a task force of knitters and crocheters who are coming together to 'yarn bomb' the town and brighten up Bridgend. It meets every Thursday and welcomes beginners and experts alike.

For more details and to find out about other groups and the membership scheme, please email evergreenhallbridgend@gmail.com have a look at the Facebook page www.facebook.com/evergreenbridgend, or simply pop in and pick up a leaflet.

A warm welcome awaits you.

Karen Steadman

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

AM makes call for better regulation of online pet sales



Huw Irranca-Davies is supporting a charity's campaign to get better regulation of pet sales over the internet.

A LOCAL AM is helping an animal charity get out the important message about the dangers of buying pets over the net.

The invisibility of pet sellers who advertise through websites allows vendors and breeders to avoid legislation and breed pets in unregulated and often poor conditions.

National Animal Charity Blue Cross is trying to change legislation to protect the thousands of pets sold online each year.

Ogmore Assembly Member and Welsh Government Minister Huw Irranca-Davies met charity members at the Senedd to hear how vulnerable pets can be exploited by sellers who remove kittens and puppies from their mums too early, do not get them vaccinated against deadly diseases and keep them in poor conditions.

They are then likely to grow into fearful, stressed adults who may get discarded and abandoned through no fault of their own.

The Ogmore AM stated: "We are a nation of animal lovers but the scale of online pet sales has become a real cause for concern."

"Last year in Wales, three leading classified websites posted over 37,000 adverts for dogs, cats and rabbits – 760 from here in Ogmore. More often than not the sellers are unlicensed and prioritise profit over animal welfare. This has to stop and all pets

should be sold with the correct care advice."

Becky Thwaites, head of public affairs at Blue Cross said: "We are shocked at the vast number of online adverts there are for the sale of pets across Wales."

"The huge marketplace for potentially thousands of pets sold online is almost completely unregulated, making it virtually impossible for local authorities to enforce animal welfare standards and protect these vulnerable young animals and those who buy them."

"We must make sure that all breeders and sellers are registered and licensed and that local authorities have the tools, training and budget needed to properly protect pets who are sold online."

The top three dog breeds advertised online in Wales in 2017 were French bulldogs, Chihuahuas and pugs – all vulnerable to serious genetic health conditions but over a third of UK dog owners were not made aware of any hereditary health conditions associated with the breed they bought.

Many owners are not aware that the snoring, panting and snorting in these breeds of dogs is not 'cute' but indicating they are struggling to breathe and in distress.

Bridgend Quiz League teasers

HERE are this week's teasers from the Bridgend Quiz League:

1. Which newspaper began as the 'Daily Universal Register'?

2. Which organisation's motto is 'Blood and Fire'?

3. What is the collective name for a flock of larks?

The Cup Final result

for the Bridgend Quiz League is: Laleston Inn A 60, Tondy Railway Club 62.

Plate Final result: Cabo Roche 46, Five Bells A 53.

SK

Answers:
1. The Times
2. The Salvation Army
3. An exaltation.

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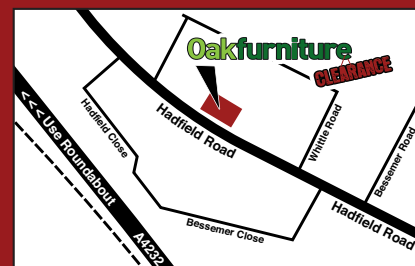
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The Glamorgan GEM - 35 years and counting!



ABOVE: It was 35 years ago this month that *The Glamorgan GEM* first published, and from an eight-page newspaper in 1983, it has gone from strength to strength. Bringing you the best community news and sport, and distributing over 45,000 newspapers throughout the Vale and Bridgend county borough, we truly are the Vale's longest serving community newspaper – and now you can get your news online as well, by visiting our website - glamorgan-gem.co.uk – and by following us on Facebook - facebook.com/GlamorganGEM - and Twitter - @gem_news and @GEMSportsNews. So, happy birthday to us – and here's to another 35 years!

Applications now open for South Wales fitness awards

THE South Wales Fitness Awards is proud to announce that applications are open for the 2018 South Wales Fitness Awards.

The awards, now in their second year, celebrate the best in Welsh fitness. This year's awards are to be hosted by Capital FM's Polly James on June 20 at the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge.

The categories for this year's applications are:

- Personal Trainer of the year
- Fitness Club of the Year
- Fitness Entrepreneur of the year
- Trainee/Member of the Year
- The Community Award
- Group Fitness Club/Class of the Year
- Fitness Event of the Year

Year

- Fitness Support of the Year
- South Wales Fitness Awards Champion 2018 – (Drawn from the winners of the categories above)

Co-founder of the South Wales Fitness Awards, Wesley Skene, said: "South Wales has many outstanding fitness enthusiasts and fitness businesses."

"The fitness community is one of the guiding lights in Welsh society. We are delighted to offer a platform for them to showcase their talents."

Applications for the South Wales Fitness Awards close on Friday, May 11. To find out how to apply, log on to www.southwalesfitnessawards.co.uk

Glamorgan cricketer will coach at Cathedral School

FORMER England and Glamorgan cricketer Simon Jones MBE is the latest addition to the Cathedral School sports coaching team.

Simon, who played international cricket for England 18 times and was an integral member of the 2005 winning Ashes side, will become sports coach next month.

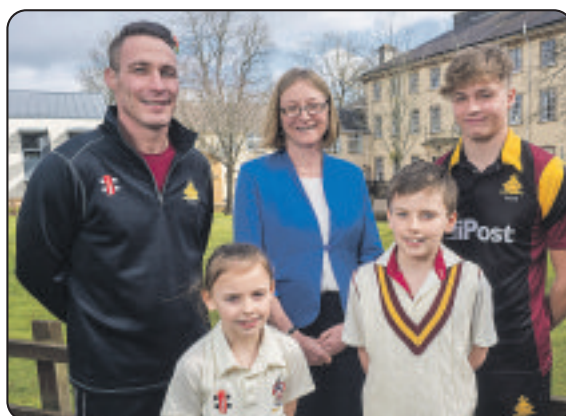
Simon joins the Cathedral School as cricket is introduced at the school this year for girls. Working with Cricket Wales throughout the winter in preparation, the girls' coaching staff will also benefit from Simon's expertise.

On his appointment, Simon Jones said: "I am really looking forward to working at the Cathedral School. The commitment and enthusiasm from the pupils I have met so far is very impressive. With one of the most picturesque cricket squares in Wales, I am very much looking forward to the season ahead."

Director of sport at the Cathedral School, Mark Barrington added: "Simon is a fantastic addition to our sports coaching staff, giving our pupils the opportunity to learn from someone who has played sport at the highest level."

Other members of the sports team include Nia Jones, who will represent Wales at the Commonwealth Games in netball and former pupil Adam Roscrow, who represented Wales C in football this week.

Clare Sherwood, head of the Cathedral School



From left: Simon Jones MBE, Clare Sherwood, head of the Cathedral School, William Youngs, First XI Cricket Captain and Primary pupils, Imogen and Ben Smart.

said: "As a keen player and supporter of cricket, I am delighted to welcome Simon to the school. His international experience and skills will undoubtedly play an important role as we embark on girls' cricket this summer, building on our already established sporting tradition."

This season the Cathedral School will host the MCC in May following the successful inaugural match last year, as well as the MCCU v Gloucestershire CCC and the first Cathedral School's 1st XI Festival.

The Simon Jones Cricket Academy will run at the Cathedral School during school holidays for budding cricketers, girls and boys, aged 6-13. For further details, email simonjonescricket@gmail.com.

Artists visit Rhoose WI

PRESIDENT Jenny Reed welcomed Rhoose WI members and visitors to the first meeting since February, the snow having forced the cancellation of the March meeting.

There were two items on the agenda – the first was a short talk by two artists, funded by developers, Taylor Wimpey, who wanted to inform local people of a number of workshops taking place which would gather ideas for sculptures that would ultimately be displayed in the village.

The main speaker of the evening was Novello Peters from the Glamorgan Federation, who talked about the charity, Associated Women of the World (ACWW).

This worldwide organisation seeks to help women in poorer parts of the world by identifying projects through which local women can be trained to develop skills, enabling them to earn a living within their community.

This expertise, in turn, enables them to pass their skills onto others, thus hopefully improving life for more women and their families.

This year, the GFWI project is to help women in Guatemala, who live very near a rubbish dump, to improve their lives. Novello was appealing to the WI to

raise funds to support the project during the coming year. The talk was well received and a substantial collection made. Sheila Griffiths gave a vote of thanks to Novello.

Other business: members were told that the educational trip will take place on July 11. This will take the form of a visit to the Cotswolds where members will call at Winchcombe and later tour Sudeley Castle. Members were reminded that they need to pay a non-returnable deposit of £5 when adding their names to the list.

A group will attend the GFWI annual meeting at Port Talbot on April 24 and a number are planning to attend the National Federation meeting in Cardiff on June 6.

During April, the regular Rhoose WI clubs will meet as follows: skittles on the 20th, craft were on the 18th, and lunch at the Highwayman on the 27th. Coffee mornings as usual on Tuesdays at Coffee Time.

The next meeting of Rhoose WI will be the annual meeting and cheese and wine evening on May 3 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Stewart Road.

New members and visitors will be very welcome to join us. Contact number 01446711384.

JJ

Fodder Bank for farmers relaunches

THE NFU and NFU Cymru are relaunching their online Fodder Bank to help members find animal feed for their farms, or sell any surplus to assist others, after wet weather has seen farmers in many parts of the UK experience shortages of feed availability for livestock, resulting in additional costs.

The wet weather and late spring have seen livestock and dairy producers unable to turn out stock due to a lack of grass growth and available forage, leading to the increased need for supplementary feed and additional costs.

Arable farmers have also experienced delays in spring cultivations and drilling where the ground is too wet to travel.

NFU Cymru President John Davies said: "During this particularly difficult time for many farmers, it is vital that government lends its support to ensure farmers

are able to continue managing their businesses effectively, which means producing the food that feeds the nation.

"I am hearing from farmers who say that the sustained wet weather has meant very few have been able to turn out their livestock, and this has led to increasing difficulty sourcing available forage."

"In addition to the NFU and NFU Cymru relaunching their Fodder Bank to help their members, we will also be discussing impacts of the wet weather and any support needed with industry and government."

"As well as contributing £112 billion to the UK economy and providing 3.8 million jobs, food and farming underpins rural communities and it is during these difficult times that the support of both government and the wider industry is so important."

Visit www.nfuonline.co.uk/fodderbank.

FG

'RABI here to help farmers in times of crisis'

MANY farmers are currently facing fodder shortages and flooding, serious problems that impact on their ability to feed animals and plant crops.

In some regions, persistent and heavy rains have followed on swiftly from extreme snowfalls.

To make matters worse, current weather-related problems come while many are in the midst of lambing and calving.

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) has been around since 1860, and is farming's oldest and largest welfare charity. In 2017, we gave out grants of close to £2 million to people of all ages in financial need.

We have welfare officers across Wales and England who understand the current difficulties.

Our welfare officer for Northumberland and Durham, for example, recently reported that many people in his area had lost sheep in snow drifts and were dreading the prospect of lambing. Numbers are likely to

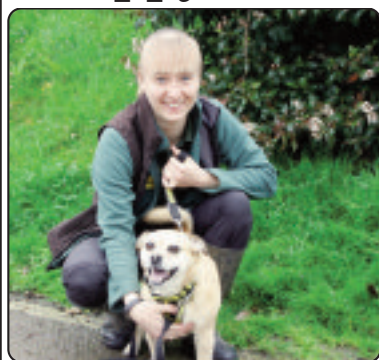
be down, which will have a knock-on effect later in the year when they come to sell their stock.

It's been a long, wet winter and the grass hasn't started to grow yet. That means there could be extra feed costs, an expense farmers wouldn't normally expect to have at this time of year.

We know from our welfare team on the ground that many in the industry – from different sectors and in various parts of the UK – are anxious about the effects of weather-related problems.

During a crisis, RABI can help those in financial hardship by providing grants for immediate domestic and household expenses. While we cannot help specifically with business costs, if the harsh winter has left you, or someone you know who works in farming, unable to pay household bills, please call our confidential Freephone Helpline number 0800 281 9490. **Paul Burrows, RABI Chief Executive**

Mindy is 'a happy soul'



Mindy with Jo from the Dog's Trust Bridgend. She is described as "...a loveable friend who would brighten up your day".

MINDY is a seven-year-old Jack Russell Terrier cross who enjoys a daily adventure.

She's a happy soul who plays well with other dogs and could live with a dog already established in the home, as long as it is a calm dog.

Mindy has lived with cats previously and she

can live with children four years and over who have been used to dogs.

Mindy is a loveable friend who would brighten up your day.

For more information on Mindy, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG; or give us call on 01656 725219. You can also visit the website at www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Got a story?
Then get in touch
with us - email
editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call
01446 774484

Bridgend Athletic RFC mini and junior news

NIGEL Owens was very complimentary of the previous week's Athletic mini festival at Bryntirion School where he refereed several games in age groups seven-11.

He praised the organisation and sportsmanship of the teams taking part with supporters applauding good moves and tries whether from their own team or the opposition. He bantered with Rhys Webb, who also refereed some games and asked for some tips, telling him he apparently knew all the rules when Nigel was refereeing him.

This weekend was another good one for the Athletic mini and junior sections with all age groups from under-7 to under-16 in action. Five of the under-16 team represented the Boys Club of Wales under-16 against the Netherlands under-17s in Amsterdam.

Bridgend Athletic under-7s entered two teams into the Beddau RFC annual tag rugby festival. This was a good opportunity for our boys to show their skills against opposition from other district teams who they don't usually have the chance to play. The other teams in our pool were Beddau, Bedwas, Llantwit Fardre, Pontypridd and Ystrad.

Despite poor weather conditions on the day our boys performed exceptionally well, putting in strong performances against stiff competition.

They showed a lot of flair in attack and great determination with their tagging. Yet again our boys did fantastically well, making both the parents and coaches very proud. In total, 10 matches were played with six wins, three draws and only one loss.

The under-8s entered two teams into the same festival, playing a total of 12 games. The Ath Golds won all six of their games, scoring 33 tries and conceding 18 while the Ath Greens won five, losing one, scoring 31 tries and conceding only 11.

A great squad effort produced stand-out try-scoring performances from Ethan Davies with 14, Mason Brown (10), Ashton Davies (10), Dylan Jones (5), Dylan Gardiner (5), Iestyn Bissmire (5) and Reuben O'Brien (4).

This week the under-8s venture to Bonymaen for their annual festival.

Bridgend Athletic under-9s travelled to Whitehall in Bristol on Sunday to play in their annual rugby festival, entering two sides - Green and Yellow - in a seven-a-side tournament, and having to quickly adapt to English rules differing from their normal WRU format.

In total, they played 10 games between them, winning nine and only losing one. Playing with smiles on their faces, the rugby was a joy to watch with excellent skills on display in defence and in offence.

It was a fantastic team effort with everyone playing their part, scoring a total of 58 tries throughout the festival.

The under-10s attended the Ospreys festival at Pencoed over the weekend, playing a total of seven games over the two days, and only suffering one defeat.

They played outstandingly winning a number games without conceding any tries - some 10-0, 8-0 and 6-0. It was a pleasure to watch them play, as a team, great individual rugby players coming together to form an unstoppable side.

Day two of the festival and the weather was causing poor pitch conditions, but this didn't faze the under-10s who finished the day without a loss. Thank you to Pencoed for hosting the festival and for the Ospreys for the great organisation. On to the next one!

The under-11s concluded their season with a visit to Old Penarthians. They saved their best performance for this last match running out 5-3 victors.

First half tries from Lucas Kenny and Ioan Hammond saw the Ath take the initiative.

Penarthians pulled a try back early in the second half, but the team dug deep to launch wave after wave of attacks.

Some strong running from James Waite was rewarded with a try to put the Ath 3-1 up, before Ioan Hammond added his second minutes later. Kian Tolentino rounded off a fine display with the Ath's fifth try of the day.

Penarthians showed true grit to fight back with two late tries, but the result was never in doubt, as all 14 squad members put in a huge shift to close the game out. Mention must be made of Thomas Drysdale's ferocious tackling.

The under-12s followed up sharing the Old Luctonians Festival trophy in Hereford the previous Sunday with a drawn final against Stourbridge, by crossing the Severn Bridge to take part in the Whitehall of Bristol Festival.

With 70-0 victories over both Whitehall RFC and Dings RFC and a 25-0 win over Wootton Bassett, the Ath scored 33 tries (165 points) without conceding a single point.

Try scorers were Rhys Hockings and Dan Stoodley (5), Leo Quinn (4), Dan Clarke, Louis Philemon and Charlie Rees (3 each), Rhidian Greenhall, Dan Honeyfield and Harry Griffiths (2 each) and Sam Breeze, Dan Mellor, Alex Tidball and Harvey Toozee.

The under-13s went west for their first visit to Duvant looking to continue their good run of form and were pleased to find themselves warming up in front of the first XV team's stand before playing on that pitch.

They did full justice to the occasion, outscoring the home side by 10 tries to one in a 56-7 victory.

The Ath started strongly and following some hard running from winger Ryan Jones, Danny Wilson powered his way over for the opening try, converted by Jacob Hughes. Shea Duggan was next to cross, the centre showing his eye for the gap, again converted by Jacob.

Ryan Jones who was having a fine game was next on the scoresheet followed by Luca Barclay and then Shea ran in his second. A barnstorming run by Bailey John set up the backs to move the ball wide for a good team try in the corner, finished off by Sam Barraclough and converted by Jacob, for a half-time score of 36-0.

Shortly after the restart a bit of individual brilliance saw Toby Lewis score a lovely try which was quickly followed by Sam Barraclough racing clear from his own half for his second.

Duvant then dug in and drove the ball forward to be rewarded with a typical forward try, well converted, to trail 46-7. Ryan Jones then scored a second and then completed his hat-trick for a 56-7 victory and an outstanding display from the winger.

Another great team performance with the front row trio Archie Brent, Matthew Pugh, Kieran Lewis and Ryan Goodfellow all standing out.

The under-14s travelled across the bridge to play in the Whitehall RFC Festival Bristol. With only 18 players available and three physical games awaiting them the boys had to put in a big shift, which they did to good effect, emerging convincing 35-12 tournament victors against Cinderford.

First up was Kingswood RFC in a game which lived up to expectation. The breakdown was a highly-contested part of the game and not having contested lineouts or lifting the Ath had to adapt quickly.

It wasn't long before the Ath were running in well worked tries and dominating most aspects of the game running out convincing winners.

Next up was Whitehall RFC who put in a good performance but couldn't match the physicality of the Ath pack and the pace of the backs. It was another big win and the Ath experimented playing boys in different positions.

The final game saw us play familiar opponents Cinderford who are a very good side. It was the

fixture of the day with all teams present keen on watching who would emerge the winner of the festival.

The Ath players were well up for this game and put in a massive performance with every player giving 100 per cent. The Ath were clinical in everything they did with forwards and backs combining and it wasn't long before they stamped their authority on the game to run out convincing winners with the final score Ath 35, Cinderford 12.

There were too many great performances to name players in what was a true squad performance. The team truly deserved to win the festival with lots of great compliments coming from spectators of other teams about the standard of their rugby on show.

The under-15s played in the inaugural two-day Ospreys tournament on Saturday and Sunday and were superb throughout both days, emerging with great credit, losing the final to a Culleton (Devon) side undefeated in two seasons.

On a beautiful sunny day on Saturday the Ath played three games winning 15-0 against Rotherham Phoenix, 20-5 against Andover and 35-0 against Rhyl.

Fantastic running rugby saw the Ath score 14 tries in three games and only concede one. Scorers were Owen D'Adamo (4), Thomas Munro-Dawkins (2), Harrison Morgan, Ryan Neagle, Michael Gillette, Euan Rees, Tom Florence, John Coates and Harry Cawley.

The most popular try of the day went to Ollie Gibbs - his first ever try for the Ath in his sixth season! His coach remarked: "I don't think I have ever seen anybody so excited to score in any level of rugby!"

Ollie ended up being carried from the field by his team mates at full time - well done Ollie!

The Sunday brought a total contrast with the mud and rain and a totally different day to contend with. The Ath played Rotherham again in the semi-final on a pitch the approximate size of a postage stamp!

The size of the pitch, the rain and the mud made it very difficult for both teams. Great defence in the first half by the Ath kept Rotherham out, however in the second half all the pressure was applied by the Ath.

A combination of good defence and extremely tricky conditions, however, saw the game finish scoreless - the Ath getting to the final due to number of tries scored throughout the tournament.

The final was against a very good, well-drilled Cullumpton team (Devon). They have been unbeaten for two years and were a very powerful unit.

After approximately 10 minutes Cullumpton were awarded a try following a penalty move close to the Ath line where they scored a controversial try.

The second half saw a monumental effort from the Ath boys attempting to turn the game around. The Ath attacked at every opportunity, however they couldn't manage to score, mainly due to stout defence from the opposition.

By this time the conditions had become so bad with mud and rain that one side could not be identified from the other and therefore it became impossible to play any fluent rugby.

Despite this, the Ath continued to try to attack at every opportunity and heaped pressure on the opposition. However, the half remained scoreless, Cullumpton winning 5-0.

A fantastic effort over two days by all 23 players who should be extremely proud of the effort and skill that they showed throughout both days. The Cullumpton coach described our boys as the best team that they have ever faced!

The under-16s hosted Caerleon in a game played with only 13 players a side. The Athletic had five players away with the BCOW under-16s side in the Netherlands.

With forwards playing out of position in the backs the Ath were slow to adapt and found themselves two converted tries adrift in the first quarter.

Captain Keegan Thomas levelled the scores crossing for two tries, both converted by Isaac Watkins. However, Caerleon scored twice more before half-time which sent them in at the interval 24-14 ahead.

The second half was played end-to-end, but it was the Ath that scored first with a strong run by Rhys Hyde who crossed for a try, again converted by Isaac Watkins.

With the deficit down to three points the Ath pushed hard but could not break the Caerleon defence.

From a good tackle the Ath lost the ball pressing the Caerleon team on their own try line and saw the visitors race 90 meters to score under the posts for a converted try to run out 31-21 winners.

AB

When Nearly Noble landed a monster gamble at Ystradowen

IN my best-selling book, *Racing Rogues - The Scams, Scandals and Gambles of Horse Racing in Wales* (Published by St David's Press at £12.99), a number of the true stories take place in the Vale and one of them, which was described by the Hunter Chasers & Point-To-Pointers Annual, as a 'monster gamble' came off at the Ystrad Taff Fechan Hunt Steeplechases at Ystradowen on May 4, 2002.

The big betting coup came off in the first division of the open maiden race when *Nearly Noble*, a nine-year-old bay gelding, owned and trained by Pontypridd's Robert Roswell, and ridden by his then wife Lucy, bolted home, an official four lengths winner from *Good Morning*, partnered by the Vale's James Tudor.

The favourite, *Carl's Boy*, ridden by Ian Johnson, finished a further four lengths away in third spot.

Nearly Noble's form figures in the racecard read 047-0: hardly the kind of form which would have inspired punters to have backed it.

Be that as it may, someone knew something and *Nearly Noble*, a tall and unfurnished individual, was backed from 16-1 to 4-1 and off the board in places.

Lucy, a Welsh champion point-to-point rider, had given the horse a super ride, having him in a handy position throughout and, despite

a mistake at the second last fence, won easily enough.

Interviewing her then husband Robert, who like Lucy had been a leading point-to-point rider himself, after the race he told me that he had bought the horse in Ireland just a matter of weeks earlier from Jim Draper, son of the legendary Irish trainer Tom Draper of *Arkle and Flying Bolt* fame.

Not only that, the race *Nearly Noble* had just won was a maiden race which is for horses that have never won a race before.

However, unknown to the thousands of racegoers who were at Ystradowen that day, *Nearly Noble* had been a virtual 'winner' when he had faced the starter. For he had actually finished first in an Irish point-to-point, only to be controversially disqualified after being misdirected by a fence steward!

Nearly Noble was later sold out of Wales and the following season won three more point-to-points.

Earlier in the day, the Ystradowen bookmakers had faced another big pay out when another former Irish horse, *Power 'N' Glory*, backed from 4-1 to 2-1, trained by Bridgend's John Moore and ridden by Tim Vaughan, now a leading Welsh trainer at Aberthron, won the confined race for Irishman Cyril Campwell.

If you have any stories or pictures for Brian's next book - *The Welsh Horse Racing Miscellany*, please e-mail him at brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone 02920 736438. It will include racing under rules items as well as point-to-point and flapping (unlicensed racing).

Bridgend Bridge Club news

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

On Wednesday, April 11: First, Linda Pinnock and Bill Turner; second, John Beard and Liam Sheridan; third, Glyn Williams and Irene Wickham. The winners on handicap were Linda Pinnock and Bill Turner.

On Thursday, April 12: First, Norma Newman and Emer Disley; second, Maggie Ashpole and Stuart Davies; third, Eileen Mahoney and Jeff Barnett. The winners on handicap were Maggie Ashpole and Stuart Davies.

On Friday, April 13: First, Emer Disley and Linda Jenkins; second, John Evans and Bill Turner; third,

John Moore and Gill Wybrow. The winners on handicap were Emer Disley and Linda Jenkins.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Noltan Church Hall. Play is scheduled to start at 7pm, to enable a prompt start, it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Friday, April 20, there is a duplicate bridge social cheese and wine evening where all bridge players are welcome and a partner can be arranged if required.

On Thursdays afternoons at 2pm, again at Noltan Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding.

All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members are always welcome.

Lessons for beginners are being run by Steve Burgoyne - please contact Steve for further details on his home page.

On Thursdays there is a session starting at 1pm on slightly advanced topics - this week Steve will conclude his seminars on opening with a strong balanced hand.

For further information about the lessons and any other of the club activities please contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

GJ

Pencoed under-16s tame the Bulldogs

HOSTS R.C. Bulldogs, who were enjoying a successful season to date, were comprehensively beaten by a talented Pencoed under-16s side intent on doing their club proud.

The Pencoed try scorers were Sam Howells, Jay Penny, Tyler Evans, Tommy Renfree, Cory Palmer, Ben Lloyd and Dafydd Hopkins, the final score 44-0.

Both clubs exchanged presentations with the Pencoed captain Lewis Bowen making the presentation of a Pencoed under-16 club cap to the R.C. Bulldogs man of the match.

A spokesperson for the team commented that the lads were a credit to Pencoed Rugby Football Club.

TR

Win an MG in the Big Birthday Raffle

A NEW car worth more than £10,000 is up for grabs in the Tenovus Cancer Care Big Birthday Raffle.

Launched as part of the charity's 75th anniversary celebrations, the aim of the raffle is to raise £75,000 to help fund Tenovus Cancer Care's research, treatment and support.

A spokesperson said: "The raffle is supported by Nathaniel Car Sales, which has kindly supplied a MG 3Form Sport worth more than £10,000 to be given away as the top prize.

Tenovus Cancer Care fundraiser Alexandra Smith, said: "In the 1960s, the 10 founders of Tenovus, as it was originally known, donated a car to be raffled to raise money for a care home for the elderly that was in financial difficulties.

"Now, more than 50 years later with the charity celebrating its 75th year, we are excited to be giving away a car that will help raise funds so we can deliver our



Pictured left to right at the launch are: Alexandra Smith, Tenovus Cancer Care fundraiser; Scott Baldwin; Ospreys and Wales; and Wayne Griffiths' Nathaniel Cars managing director.

services where patients and their loved ones need us the most, in the heart of the community.

"Selling just 20 tickets will pay for our dedicated cancer support line for one hour and helps fund a service that is available every day of the year for cancer patients and their loved ones.

"Everyone at Tenovus

Cancer Care would like to say a big thank you to Wayne Griffiths at Nathaniel Cars for supporting the Big Birthday Raffle."

Tickets for the Big Birthday Raffle cost £2 and can be bought in any Tenovus Cancer Care, through the Friends of Tenovus groups and at the charity's events throughout the summer and online.

The top prize is the MG 3Form Sport, second prize is a family holiday at a Watermark's lakeside lodge, and there are five chances to win a £50 John Lewis voucher. TCC

HELP FOR SSAFA FROM COTTRELL PARK SENIORS



Terry Hoggett, Lieutenant Commander Julian Salisbury, Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Sam Smith, Dave Parry (society secretary).

COTTRELL Park Seniors' Golf Society 2017 captain, Sam Smith, presented a cheque for £900 to the SSAFA - The Armed Forces Charity (formerly Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association), Cardiff and the Vale Branch, on Thursday, April 12 at Cottrell Park.

SSAFA exists to relieve need, suffering and distress amongst the Armed Forces, veterans and their families in order to support their independence and dignity.

Money was collected via a variety of raffles and competitions organised and run by the society committee throughout the year.

Ramblers' enjoy Easter walks

WITH the clocks going forward, it also heralds the start of the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers' summer programme.

The Easter weekend was a busy one, two walks were on offer, one on Easter Sunday and another one on Easter Monday.

The walk on Easter Sunday was a local eight-mile walk, starting at Marine Drive, Barry. The group walked down the Knap, enjoying the spring flowers, passing the lake which is in the shape of a Welsh Harp, before making our way past the Gorsedd Stones which were evidence of the Eisteddfod in Barry in 1920.

Making our way down to Portcheri Park, which being a nice day, was teeming with families enjoying the weekend. This was our coffee stop before making our way along the coastal path

towards Rhose Point where we enjoyed our lunch, together with Easter eggs which were provided by one of the group.

Making our way back towards Barry, we were eagerly looking forward to the promised tea/coffee and homemade cake which was to be provided by our leader, Mary Tornabene.

Our Easter Monday walk was one of a different nature altogether. The walk was led by Gwion Evans, a 13-mile walk in the Brecon Beacons.

Starting from Llangorse Lake, the group, despite the promised wet day, were lucky to escape the rain, although it was a very muddy walk.

The proposed route had to be re-thought, as the stile that should have been crossed was only accessible either by boat or swimming to it. Thank goodness

for Plan B.

Spring is the celebration of new life, but unfortunately for the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers, we had to say goodbye to one of our members. Mike Carey, sadly passed away at Holme Towers, Penarth, shortly before Easter.

Mike was a committed member of the group. He was chair of the committee he led walks, organised weekends away, meeting members and genuinely loved being outdoors.

It was with great sadness that we had this news, but hope to inspire his love of the outdoors continually by offering a varied programme throughout the year.

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Gwenda Fitzpatrick
(Publicity officer)

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CLEMETT

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Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service and committal at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, 25th April at 10am. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care (Holme Tower), Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

LEE

Nathan

Suddenly on 1st April, Nathan, aged 34 years, of St Athan. Devoted father of Harvey, loving son of Viv and Karen, dear brother of Anna, Joanne and Sarah and a much loved grandson.

Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Thursday, 26th April, service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm, where friends please meet.

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SPILLER

Marina

Peacefully on 26th March at Milsom House, St Athan. Marina, beloved wife of the late Dennis, devoted mother of Mike, Steve and Janette, much loved mother-in-law of Jane and Debbie. Loving grandmother to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Service in celebration of her life on 27th April at 11am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations if desired to Marie Curie or Macmillan Cancer Support c/o P. James, W. James & Sons, Fommon.

THOMAS

Maywin

Yn dawel ar 9fed Ebrill 2018, Maywin Thomas, gynt o Dŷ Gofal Orchard House Barri a chyn hynny o 287 Heol Gladstone Barri. Gweddw gariadus y diweddar Ifor Thomas a mam yndod ofalgar Catrin a Gareth, mam-yng-nghyfraith garedig Linda a mamgu hoff Catrin Haf a Heledd Wyn.

Cynhelir gwasanaeth i ddiolch am fywyd Maywin yng Nghapel Tabernacl Sgwâr y Brenin Barri ar ddydd Iau 26ain o Ebrill am 11.30 ac wedyn yn yr Amlogfa ar Port Road East Barri am 13.00. Blodau'r teulu yn unig os gwelwch yn dda. Rhoddion, pe dymunir, er cof am Maywin ar ran Barnardo's Cymru neu Soroptimist International Barri and District, trwy law'r Ymgymwrs, i'w casglu ar y diwrnod, gyda diolch.

Peacefully on 9th April 2018, Maywin Thomas, late of Orchard House Care Home, Barry and formerly of 287 Gladstone Road, Barry. Much loved widow of the late Ivor Thomas and deeply caring mother of Catrin and Gareth, kind mother-in-law of Linda and fond grandmother of Catrin Haf and Heledd Wyn.

A service of thanksgiving for Maywin's life will be held at Tabernacl Chapel, King Square, Barry on Thursday 26th April 2018 at 11.30am, and thereafter at the Crematorium on Port Road East Barri at 1pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if so desired, gratefully received in Maywin's memory on behalf of Barnardo's Cymru or on behalf of Soroptimist International Barri and District, c/o the Funeral Director, to be collected on the day.

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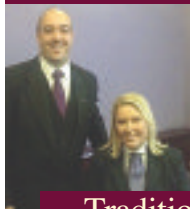
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PARTRIDGE

Olive Valerie

Suddenly but peacefully on 11th April at Llandough Hospital, Olive, of Tordoff Way, Barry. Dearly loved wife of Clifford, much loved mother of Kevin, Barry and the late Jeffrey and Tony. Mother-in-law of Glenna and the late Allison. Cherished grandmother of Katherine, Rhianon, Dominic, Olive, Ceri and great grandmother of Alfie and Mollie. Special aunt to Simon and Sian.

Olive will be greatly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry where flowers may be sent until the funeral on Tuesday, 24th April, service in the chapel at 2pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry

MASON

Dawn

Suddenly on 29th March at home, Dawn, well known of Barry, sadly passed away. Devoted partner of Craig, much loved mum of Lisa, a cherished nannie of McKenzie and Jacob. Dearly loved daughter of Sid and Nina, loving sister of Leslie, Andrew and the late Jeanette. Much loved aunt to all of her nieces and nephews.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Friday, 27th April at 3pm.

Family flowers only by request.

Further enquiries contact Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

LACEY

Philomena Mary (née Doran)

Phyl passed away peacefully at her home in Llantwit Major, a dearly loved Mum and Gran. Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare until the service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 27th April 2018 at 2.45pm.

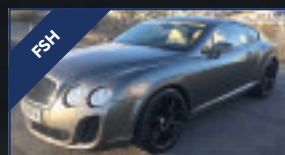
Family flowers only please. Donations, if wished, may be sent directly to Marie Curie Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

WILLIAMS

Angela Dilys (née Matthews)

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Angie, Darling wife of Terry, cherished sister of Ennis and beloved daughter of Olga and the late John Matthews.

The funeral will take place at The West Berkshire Crematorium on Thursday, 26th April at 11.15am. A memorial service will be held at The Tabernacl Chapel, Kings Square, Barry on Thursday, 3rd May at 2.30pm.

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2015 (15) Audi A6 Avant 2.0 TDI ultra S Line Avant (s/s) 5dr, grey, NEW MODEL 1 OWNER FSH ULTRA M, LN15WYB £15,490



2010 (10) Ford Fiesta 1.6 Zetec S 3dr, Blue, BEAUTIFUL" WITH ONLY 36000, DE10XUU ... £6,490



2014 (63) Audi A1 1.6 TDI Sport Sportback 5dr, Blue, 1 OWNER 2014* 83.1 MPG £0 TAX, CV63VPG £8,790



2016 (16) MINI Hatch 1.5 TD Cooper D (s/s) 5dr, 46,000 miles, silver, 1 OWNER : FSH : NAV B-T PHONE, GX16BXP £10,995



2012 (62) Audi A6 Avant 3.0 TDI S Line S Tronic Quattro 5dr, Silver, 1 PREV OWNER NAV PDC 18"ALLOYS, WV62KEK £13,490



2016 (65) Jeep Renegade 1.4 MultiAir II Longitude (s/s) 5dr, grey, ONLY 14,500 MILES NAV 1 OWNER, ET65CXV £11,990



2013 (13) Land Rover Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Dynamic LUX Hatchback AWD 5dr, 38,000 miles, white, PAN ROOF TV CAMERA BT AUDIO, OE13AXH £23,990



2014 (14) BMW 5 Series 2.0 520d SE Touring 5dr, grey, MAJOR SPECIFICATION NAV LEATH, KV140BM £11,990



2015 (15) BMW 5 Series 3.0 530d M Sport Touring 5dr, grey, 38,000 MLS : NAV : LTHR : DAB, MD15YHC £19,990



2004 (54) Mazda MX-5 1.8 Arctic Limited Edition 2dr, blue, 1 OWNER : 54,000 MLS : AIRCON, CK54FCZ £4,990



2016 (16) DS 3 1.2 PureTech DStyle 3dr, silver, JUST 10000 MLS FSH : PHONE DAB, DG16UCJ £8,290



2014 (63) BMW 5 Series 2.0 520d M Sport Touring 5dr, Grey, ONLY 1 OWNER : FSH : NAV : DAB, KT63DVJ £13,645



2013 (63) Mercedes-Benz B Class 1.8 B200 CDI Sport 7G-DCT 5dr, black, JUST 12,000 MLS FSH : 1 OWNER, OU63EJC £13,795



2014 (14) Audi A3 1.6 TDI S line Sportback 5dr, red, 1 OWNER : 85.6 MPG : 18" ALLOY, PE140LN £11,490



2008 (58) Jaguar XF 2.7 TD Luxury 4dr, blue, LTHR : NAV : CAM, KY58SUO £7,790



2012 (62) Fiat 500 1.2 Lounge (s/s) 3dr, white, 32,000 MLS FSH 1 PREV OWNER, LV62EWH £5,445



2010 (60) Land Rover Defender 90 2.4 Tdi XS Station Wagon 3dr, black, ONLY 50,000 MILES : XS MODEL, LT60UBP £22,990



2014 (63) BMW X3 2.0 20d M Sport xDrive 5dr, white, JUST 1 OWNER FSH LEATHER PDC, MT63WNM £16,995



2013 (13) Audi A1 1.4 TFSI S Line Sportback S Tronic 5dr, Black, 22,000 miles, LOW LOW MILES* BT PHONE AUDIO, FV13SNK £12,490



2015 (15) Land Rover Range Rover Sport 4.4 SD V8 Autobiography Dynamic 4X4 (s/s) 5dr, red, 33,000 miles, 4.4 SD V8 ADAPTIVE 21"ALLOYS, OV15FJC £49,990



2015 (15) Mazda CX-5 2.2 TD SE-L 2WD (s/s) 5dr, 52,000 miles, red, 1 PREV OWNER : FSH NAVIGATION, LT15CKC £12,490



2013 (13) Land Rover Freelander 2 2.2 TD4 HSE 4X4 5dr, JUST 29,500 MLS FSH NAV LTHR, WR13TZG £17,995



2014 (14) BMW 3 Series 2.0 320d EfficientDynamics Business Edition Touring (s/s) 5dr, Silver, NAVIGATION BT LEATHER DAB, BK14VNP £10,790



2013 (13) Fiat 500 1.2 Lounge (s/s) 3dr, white, ONLY 29,000 MILES £30 ROAD TAX, LV62EWH £5,995

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2010 (10) Mercedes-Benz C Class 6.3 C63 AMG 7G-Tronic 4dr, silver, 56,000 MLS FSH NAV SUNROOF, 0V10KZT £19,990



2013 (62) Volkswagen CC 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech GT 4dr, 55,000 miles, black, LEATHER NAVIG FSH B/T AUDIO, KR62YGZ £9,990



2011 (61) Nissan Qashqai+2 1.6 N-TEC (s/s) 5dr, red, 38,000 MLS FSH CAM NAV 7 SEAT, PK61CEF £10,290



2014 (14) BMW i3 E eDrive 5dr (Extended Range), 37,000 miles, grey, 1 OWNER NAVIGATION 20" ALLOYS, KJ14HYH .£16,490

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2012 (12) Mercedes-Benz E Class 3.0 E350 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Sport 7G-Tronic 2dr, 48,000 miles, black, CONVERTIBLE : NAV : PDC: SPORT, LO12MBU £14,790



2013 (63) Nissan Navara 2.5 dCi Visia Double Cab Pickup 4dr (EU5), grey, SNUG TOP REAR BED LINER, WV63UOE £7,990 + VAT



2015 (65) SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI FR ST (s/s) 5dr, 45,000 miles, black, NAVIGATION : DAB : LED : PHONE, CN65VNR £10,490



2013 (13) Mercedes-Benz M Class 3.0 ML350 CDI BlueTEC AMG Sport 7G-Tronic Plus 5dr, 48,000 miles, grey, BEAUTIFUL 1 OWNER FULL MSH, CK13TUA £21,795



2013 (63) Toyota GT86 2.0 D-4S 3dr, 25,000 miles, white, AUTO : NAVIGATION : FMSH, SL63CHX £15,490



2014 (64) Mercedes-Benz Vito 2.1 CDI Dualiner Compact Panel Van 5dr (5 Seats), silver, 6 SEATS 14,000 MILES 1 OWNER, SV64JPY £14,490 + VAT



2014 (14) Skoda Octavia 1.6 TDI CR Elegance 5dr, 29,000 miles, white, BEAUTIFUL 1 OWNER FSH NAVI DAB, DK14QSR .. £10,245



2014 (14) Mercedes-Benz E Class 2.1 E250 CDI AMG Sport 7G-Tronic Plus 5dr, silver, 30,000 MLS FSH NAVIGATION LTHR, YP14KZX £17,445



2016 (16) Peugeot 308 1.6 BlueHDI GT Line (s/s) 5dr, blue, JUST 11,500 MLS NAV CAM DAB, KN16JXF £12,445



2015 (65) Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 i Sting 3dr, red, 18,000 MLS : FSH WITH VAUXHALL, CE65AHP £6,245



2014 (63) Mercedes-Benz E Class 2.1 E250 CDI AMG Sport 7G-Tronic Plus 4dr, 40,000 miles, blue, NAV : HTD LEATHER : AMG PACK KU63YMW £15,490



2015 (15) Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI CR DPF SE 5dr, black, 59,000 MLS : 1 OWNER BIG SPEC, SF15WZP £9,790



2013 (63) Mercedes-Benz E Class 3.0 E350 CDI BlueTEC AMG Sport 7G-Tronic Plus 2dr, white, 34,000 MLS FSH NAV LTHR PDC, KN63WWB £17,490



2008 (57) Toyota Yaris 1.3 VVT-i TR 5dr, black, JUST 51,000 MLS FSH 9 X STAMPS, YA5700F £3,995



2015 (15) Mercedes-Benz Sprinter 2.1 CDI 313 High Roof Panel Van 4dr (LWB), white, 1 OWNER FULL MERCEDES HISTORY, KT15ZF £12,995 + VAT



2015 (64) Vauxhall Mokka 1.7 CDTi ecoFLEX 16v Exclusiv FWD (s/s) 5dr, black, 19,500 MLS 1 OWNER : 70.6 MPG, DS64XH £10,495



2010 (60) Mercedes-Benz CLS 3.0 CLS350 CDI Grand Edition 7G-Tronic 4dr, silver, 272BHP WITH FSH NAVIGATION, NX60FSG £8,490



2012 (62) Volkswagen Passat 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech Sport 5dr, grey, FSH : NAVIGATION : B/T PHONE, WG62FCO £6,990



2011 (11) BMW X5 3.0 40d M Sport xDrive 5dr, Black, 64,000 MLS NAV LTHR FSH XENON, YE11XXZ £16,490



2010 (10) Mercedes-Benz M Class 3.0 ML350 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Sport 7G-Tronic 4x4 5dr, silver, 7 X MERC STAMPS : NAV : PDC, KU10TFK £12,795

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15 65 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-2 AWD 5dr, Kia warranty Oct 2022, pan roof, pdc, 19k, white, half leather **£14295**



14 64 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 3.0 CRD Limited 5dr automatic, reverse camera, 29k, black, full leather **£20995**



16 66 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D4 SE Lux Nav Estate 4X4 Gearbox, Volvo warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, 15k, silver, full leather **£21995**



15 65 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 4 3.0 SDV6 HSE 5dr automatic (7-Seater), black pack, sat nav, triple sunroofs, 19k, black, full leather **£37995**



15 15 AUDI A7 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line 5dr S-Tronic, 20" alloys, sat nav, 30k, silver, full leather **£25995**



16 16 BMW X5 XDRIVE 3.0 DM Sport 5dr automatic, widescreen sat nav, M sport plus pack, 18k, met grey with full leather **£26995**



14 64 MERCEDES GLA220 CDI AMG Line Premium Plus 5dr 7G-DCT 4Matic, pan roof, 19" alloys, reverse camera, 26k, red, half-leather **£20995**



15 65 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI BlueMotion Tech R 5dr 4WD (300bhp), cruise, xenons, 18k, black **£19795**



16 16 BMW 740 D XDRIVE M Sport 4dr automatic (315bhp), BMW warranty June 2019, Premium package, 20" alloys, head-up display, electric glass sunroof, 18k, white, full leather **£42995**



11 61 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD KX-2 AWD 5dr automatic, pan roof, cruise, Bluetooth, black, half-leather **£9995**

- 16 16 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI Quattro Sport 4dr, Audi warranty April 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, 18" alloys, 13k, white **£16995**
 15 15 AUDI A7 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line 5dr S-Tronic, 20" alloys, sat nav, 30k, silver, full leather **£25995**
 14 64 AUDI Q5 2.0 TDI Quattro S-Line Plus 5dr S-Tronic, sat nav, privacy glass, 33k, met blue, full leather **£22995**
 13 13 AUDI TT 2.0 TDI S-Line Quattro 3dr S-Tronic, cruise, Bluetooth, bose, 32k, met blue, half leather **£14495**
 14 64 BMW 120 D M Sport XDRIVE 5dr (184bhp) Bluetooth, cruise, PDC, 30k, blue **£12995**
 13 63 BMW 330 D M Sport XDRIVE 4dr automatic, sat nav, cruise, black, full merino leather **£15995**
 16 16 BMW 330D XDRIVE M Sport GT 5dr automatic, BMW warranty March 2019, sat nav, 19" alloys, 19k, black, full leather **£22495**
 16 65 BMW 335 DXDRIVE M Sport 5dr automatic, 19" Alloys, widescreen sat nav, 23k, met grey, full leather **£22995**
 16 16 BMW 335d XDRIVE M Sport Estate automatic (313bhp), BMW warranty May 2019, sat nav, DAB, 23k, white, full leather **£22495**
 16 16 BMW 335 DXDRIVE M Sport GT 5dr automatic, sat nav, full leather **£21995**
 15 64 BMW 420 D M Sport XDRIVE Gran Coupe 5dr automatic, pro sat nav, 19" alloys, Harman kardon, full leather, met black **£21495**
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 16 16 BMW 420 DXDRIVE M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr automatic, 19" alloys, widescreen sat nav, 23k, met grey, full leather **£23995**
 16 65 BMW 420D XDRIVE D M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr automatic (190bhp), BMW warranty Feb 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, privacy glass, full leather, 23k, grey **£20995**
 16 16 BMW 435 DXDRIVE 3.0 M Sport 2dr Coupe automatic, widescreen sat nav, M sport plus pack, 18k, met grey with full leather **£26995**
 16 16 BMW 740 D XDRIVE M Sport 4dr automatic (315bhp), BMW warranty June 2019, Premium package, 20" alloys, head-up display, electric glass sunroof, 18k, white, full leather **£42995**
 16 66 BMW X1 20D M Sport XDRIVE 5dr automatic, BMW warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, heated seats, grey **£21995**
 16 16 BMW X3 XDRIVE 35D M Sport 5dr automatic, 20" alloys, sat nav, 15k, white with full leather **£29995**
 14 64 BMW X4 XDRIVE 3.0 DM Sport 5dr automatic, widescreen sat nav, M sport plus pack, 20k, white with full leather **£28495**
 15 65 BMW X5 XDRIVE 40EM Sport 5dr, 20" alloys, head up display, reverse camera, sat nav, 30k, met grey, full leather **£36995**
 15 15 BMW X5 XDRIVE 30 DSE 5dr automatic, 22" alloys, sat nav, 32k, met brown, full leather **£28995**
 15 65 BMW X5 XDRIVE 25D M Sport 5dr automatic (7-seater) BMW warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, 20" alloys, reverse camera, 17k, white, full leather **£34995**
 14 64 HONDA CR-V 2.2 I-DTEC SR 5dr 4WD 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, 47k, blue, full leather **£12995**
 14 64 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI Premium 5dr 4WD, sat nav, rear camera, heated seats, in mocha with full leather **£11995**
 16 16 JAGUAR F-PACE 2.0 i4D R-Sport AWD 5dr, Jaguar warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, 22" black alloys, privacy glass, 16k, met red, full leather **£31495**
 14 64 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 3.0 CRD Limited 5dr automatic, reverse camera, 29k, black, full leather **£20995**
 16 65 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 MultiJet II LTD 4WD 5dr, Jeep warranty Feb 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 16k, red, full leather **£14995**
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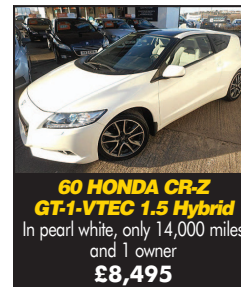
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- 10 FORD Fiesta Titanium 1.4 3-Dr. In panther black, 63,000 miles, bluetooth, FSH **£4,995**
- 10 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 3-Dr. In electric blue, 46,000 miles **£4,995**
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Maesteg Celtic's bonus-point win keeps them top

MAESTEG Celtic RFC entertained Nantymoel RFC in a rearranged league fixture and the team was strengthened by the return of Lee Arthur, Kristian Jenkins, Peter Kehoe and club captain Oliver Petty.

Before the match started, a minute's silence was held as a mark of respect for two former Celtic players, Peter Isaac who also gained international honours at schoolboy level, and Lyn Evans, who also served for many years as a committeeman.

His son, Alun Evans, was a former player and is currently one of our main sponsors, Elite Diving in Sharmel Sheikh, Egypt.

The game started and after a minute of playing, the early pressure was immediately rewarded with an unconverted try by flanker Peter Kehoe.

Straight from the kick-off Celtic went further ahead as a result of a driving maul, from which scrum half Leon Evans set the backs up for centre Kristian Jenkins, who went through some week tackling from the Nantymoel defence, to race through to score a try. Matthew Harris converted.

As play went on Celtic were dominating all phases of play with the back row of Jon Davies, Peter Kehoe and Captain Oliver Petty showing up well and second row Alex Jones using all his experience to deliver good line-out ball.

Eventually the dominance told and Celtic went further ahead when centre Lee Arthur used his strength to score a try, converted by Matthew Harris.

Whatever was said behind the posts after the try saw Nantymoel come alive, especially the backs, and they showed some excellent touches, so much so that it was Celtic's turn to be on the back foot.

Eventually Nantymoel persistence paid off and flanker E. Davies crossed for a converted try.

It was Celtic who scored next after the forwards once again secured possession from a line out and the ball reached centre Kristian Jenkins, who managed to sprint clear and go over for his second, and a bonus-point-earning try.

The second half got underway with the Nantymoel team coming out and showing that, after a slow first half, they were not pushovers.

As a result of their endeavour, they closed the score when their useful backline had Celtic in trouble when

centre S. Collins broke through to score a try near the posts for S. Webber to convert.

The Celtic scrum was on top for most of the game due to the front row of Damian Phillips, Ashley Poole and the ever-improving Sean Lambert, so it was only a matter of time before they increased their lead after Nantymoel were penalised and Matthew Harris converted the penalty.

Following that score Celtic made changes and brought Matthew Phillips on for his brother, veteran prop Damian. Mark Hillier Rees also came on into the second row and Morgan Lloyd at scrum half.

Nantymoel reduced the gap with another well taken try by flanker E Davies, converted by S. Webber. This resulted in Celtic changing flankers, Jon Davies and Peter Kehoe for Scott Lyons and Ryan Jones.

This had the desired effect with more purpose to Celtic's play. The opposition had no answer to the clean line-out ball provided by Alex Jones and Rhys Bevan Jones and their strong driving maul.

Once more it was the fleet feet of Kristian Jenkins who put Celtic further ahead when he crossed for his hat-trick of tries, which went unconverted.

Later, towards the end of the game, Celtic put the game beyond Nantymoel, when scrum half Morgan Lloyd sprinted clear from a ruck to score Celtic's final points with a try.

Centre Kristian Jenkins was awarded man of the match and this result allowed Celtic to consolidate their position at the top of Division 2 West Central.

Maesteg Celtic seconds took a bare XV to play at top of the table Tondy.

Their pack was at its best and took on the Tondy forwards. Tondy opened the scoring with a converted try but Celtic closed the gap when experienced scrum half Ian Herbert snuck over from the base of a scrum.

Tondy increased their lead from a penalty before Celtic evened the score when after a series of forward drives hooker Neil Sainsbury drove through the defence to score in the corner.

Tondy took control of the scoreboard with two fine unconverted tries before Celtic man of the match Nathan Healey received the ball from a forward drive to score.

Tondy then scored a penalty and an unconverted try before number 8 Mathew Jones burst through a tackle to run 20 metres to touch down.

KS

Wales honours for local rugby players



FIVE Bridgend Athletic RFC under-16 players represented Wales last weekend in Amsterdam against the Netherlands under-17 team.

It was the culmination of seven proposed BCOW under-16s fixtures this season which saw the team win the Netherlands fixture 24-19, with previous wins against Filton College, Bristol, Lambs and Yorkshire with one defeat to Bath and the Gloucester

fixture snowed off.

The Athletic players, who helped the BCOW under-16s regain the annual trophy from the Netherlands, were flanker Mason Hughes, wing Bobby Bromley, lock Morgan Bennett, centre Joe Watts and hooker Ben Owen.

All five players played a significant part in a good team effort to record the 24-19 win - Bennett opened the scoring with a try in the first half with Hughes adding another in the second period. **AB**

BRIDGEND SPORTS MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

BRIDGEND Sports RFC mini teams travelled up to the Llynfi Valley to Nantffyllon this week whilst most of the junior teams were at home.

The under-7s were involved in a round-robin with Nanty and Tondy. Nantffyllon and the Sports competed in a thrilling encounter in the first game with both sets of players showing a high level of skill in a fast-paced game.

The game ended all square at eight tries each. The Sports faced Tondy next. It was another great effort by all players. Bridgend Sports defended well, and it was a close game with the Sports pipping Tondy to the post seven tries to six.

Ellis Kendall was top defender for the Sports with 11 tags. Archie Hall was top try scorer with five tries, he also contributed in defence by claiming great tags.

On his shoulder was the ever-present Matthew Griffiths who defended well in midfield, with seven tags and he scored two tries.

An injury in the first game did not deter Ollie Balmer, he bounced back to score one try and gain two tags. Oscar Gee put in a superb defensive display to claim an impressive nine tags. Leo D'Adamo was not far behind with six tags and two tries.

Impressive play over both games from Dion - the 'pocket rocket' Williams with fast hands to tag seven and to also score one try.

Aled Rees showed a great display of attacking replacements during the second half the Premiership side went on to a deserved victory.

The Phoenix camp will hope that a number of their key players will be available for the top of the table clash at Senghennydd.

PENCOED PHOENIX UNDER-18S 20, HAVERFORDWEST UNDER-18S 5
With very little to choose between the two teams, eventually the Phoenix pack got on top to provide the platform for a fine victory in this National Super Cup match.

Jade Thomas got a brace of tries for Phoenix with outside half Sarah Veasey crossing the whitewash after a fine move.

Fittingly, Phoenix captain Taylor Briggs scored the final try. Replacement No8 Halle Cotterall did well.

TR



running to waltz his way down the touch line and bag three great tries and to bravely tag seven. Mikey Heanue scored a fabulous try in the corner and he gained two tags. Sam Baughton was all over the pitch and gained himself a tag.

The newer members of the team also contributed with Cian Elward tagging one while Isaac Davies claimed three tags. Debutant Isaac Dando enjoyed the experience by bagging himself an impressive six tags.

The under-8s were next and despite the miserable weather, the youngsters played some incredible rugby with outstanding tagging and tries.

The Sports won the first game 7-6 and drew their second game. Sports try scores were Zack Hughes, Max Hearn, Rhys Evans, Harry Trevelyan. The Sports secured a narrow 14-15 victory, with Rhys Evans nominated as the star of the week.

The home side registered their first win

of the morning against the Sports under-10s. Nantffyllon were a well-organised team and they raced into a three try to nil lead after some simple mistakes by the Sports.

The Sports hit back with a try for the first period to end 15-5. In the second period, all 12 Sports players played some fantastic rugby with plenty of offloads in the tackle and good slick passing for the Sports to win 5-10.

In the final 10 minute period it was the home side who came out on top 25-15, after both teams played some great rugby. Nantffyllon won 45-30.

Charlie Paget, Chloe Roblin, Madison Rees, Dylan Evans and Alfie Lewis all scored tries for the Sports with the latter deservedly earning player of the week for his all-round performance and scoring a cracking team try. Both sets of coaches congratulated all players for an excellent display of rugby.

The under-11s restored the balance in favour of the Sports as

allowed their opponents to take control early in the second half, Nanty dominated the ruck areas to deny the Sports any second phase possession and as a result they were able to use their backs to run in two further tries with one conversion to win the game 12-17.

Where the under-12s failed to capitalise on early superiority, the under-14s made no mistake as they put on a great show to run in nine unanswered tries to defeat Nantffyllon 44-0.

Finally, the under-16s crowned off another positive week. They travelled to play Clwb Rygbi at Pontcanna fields, Cardiff for their penultimate game of the season. The Sports experimented with their side and used their full squad prior to a big local derby against Bridgend Athletic this week.

Conditions were also not great in Cardiff as a constant drizzle and strong head wind persisted all morning. Clwb Rygbi got off to a great start running in two quick tries in the first 10 minutes.

The Sports then woke up and started to play as a team moving the ball through hands and kicking for territory, running in six unanswered tries to finish 36-12 victors.

The Sports tries were scored by Ieuan Wallis, Iestyn Rees, Coel Dykhoff, Kieran Richards (2) and Fin Duffill. Ieuan Wallis (2) and Kieran Richards added the conversions.

The coach's man of the match award was given to Elliot Bebb.

SP

Pencoed Phoenix are just beaten in National Cup encounter

THIS senior womens National Cup tie at the Woodlands ground between Pencoed Phoenix and Gwernyfed ladies was a closely fought affair with Premiership side Gwernyfed sealing their passage into the next round in the dying minutes, the final score 15-8.

The Phoenix pack battled hard throughout and indeed enjoyed first half scrumage supremacy through the efforts of their uncompromising front row of Lucy Cahill, Rose Lubin and Jodie Jordan.

Back row forwards Katie Murphy and Atlanta Short were also prominent with several strong carries.

Bearing in mind an important league match this Sunday, the Phoenix coaching team made a host of half-time changes and despite the efforts of the

replacements during the second half the Premiership side went on to a deserved victory.

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Jade Thomas got a brace of tries for Phoenix with outside half Sarah Veasey crossing the whitewash after a fine move.

Fittingly, Phoenix captain Taylor Briggs scored the final try. Replacement No8 Halle Cotterall did well.



Meg Griffiths attacks
(All pictures by Julie Hancock).



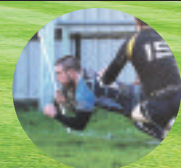
Katie Murphy looks for an opening - see more pictures at glamorgan-gem.co.uk.



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The winning run goes on for Athletic



Flanker Ben Davies with fellow flanker Sam Treharne (Picture by John Cannon).

BRIDGEND Athletic delivered their best performance of the season to inflict Ystalyfera's first Division 1 West Central defeat of the season with a bonus point, 38-21 away victory, and keep their own 11 league match winning sequence intact.

The result was the more remarkable as due to injuries and unavailability the Athletic fielded three back row forwards in the back division.

Flanker and captain Ben Howe, who started the winning sequence with his return from pre-season injury, filled the outside centre spot, with Jacob David on one wing and youth No 8 Will Barraclough making his senior debut on the other wing.

Playing down the slope Fera charged down an Athletic clearance kick inside their own 22 which led to Fera strongly attacking the Athletic try line.

Remarkably Howe turned over possession on the try line and broke away with the ball. He kicked ahead towards the Fera 22 where scrum half Dan James caught the Fera full back in possession.

Good forward interpassing involving Matt Muir, Wayne Fooks, Ben Cording and Jonathon Stoker saw James change direction with a pass to outside half Luke Bevan who ran a great angle to ghost through the home defence and cross under the posts. He converted his own try.

When Fera were penalised at a ruck inside the Athletic half their dissent saw the penalty moved to 45 metres from

their try line and in the range of Bevan, who increased the Athletic lead to 10-0.

Another Athletic youth senior debutant, Caine Woolerton, showed great composure to gather a kick on his own 22 and glide through the Fera defence until halted just short of the home try line.

From the ruck scrum half Dan James dummied and dived over wide out for his fifth try of the season. Bevan converted to bring up his 150 points for the season and increase the Athletic lead to 17-0.

Fera struck back when the referee adjudged the Athletic had infringed once too often following a series of five metre scrumage drives from Fera and awarded a penalty try to the home side.

Athletic centre Chris Price then gathered a clearance on half way and counter-attacked. He threw a long wide pass to fellow centre Howe, who drew the cover before releasing wing Jacob David to run in from 20 metres.

Woolerton made another long run out of defence but was hurt in the tackle and left the field with a blood injury to his hand. Liam Phillips filled in until Woolerton was fit to return.

Fera struck back on the stroke of half-time when their wing Luke Caines chipped ahead and regathered to cross in the corner. Outside half Steff Castle converted to reduce his side's deficit to 22-14 at half-time.

Playing down the slope the Athletic took early control of the second period. Following good work by the back row of Ben Davies, Sam Treharne and man of the match Sean Williams Fera were penalised and Bevan kicked to the corner.

Fera illegally halted a

series of Athletic five metre line out drives, before the Athletic pack powered their way over the try line for hooker Nathan Holman to cross in the corner for his fifth try of the season and secure a bonus point. Bevan converted to increase his side's lead to 29-14.

Ystalyfera were not finished and on a rare visit to the Athletic 22 their powerful pack drove prop Andrew Llewellyn over the try line for a converted try by Castle to reduce the deficit to 29-21.

The Athletic were undaunted and finished the remaining 20 minutes in complete control up front as the bigger home pack wilted in the strong sunshine.

Bevan's astute kicking and the Athletics' surprising dominance at the scrum by front row forward Wayne Fooks, Nathan Holman and Matt Muir led to Fera conceding a series of penalties.

Lock Gareth Bartlett and hooker Lee Murphy joined the fray as Bevan landed three late penalties for a match haul of 23 points and a well-deserved 38-21 victory.

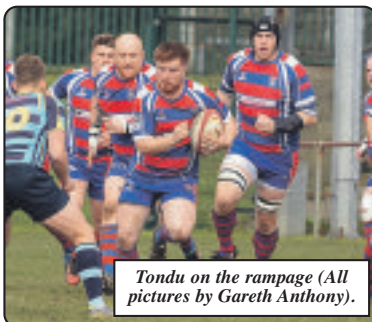
Athletic head coach John Apsee summed up: "Despite disruptions we came with a positive attitude to keep our six-month winning sequence going."

All 18 players used played with great energy and intensity to the pre-match game plan to stifle the Fera forward strength and stretch them out of their comfort zone."

The Athletic face Bonymaen at the Morganstone Brewery Field this Tuesday April 17th (kick-off 7.15pm) before travelling to Seven Sisters on Saturday, April 21.

AB

Tondu RFC's second half performance gives them derby victory



Tondu on the rampage (All pictures by Gareth Anthony).



Aled Jones breaks. More photos at glamorgan-gem.co.uk.

THE first 40 minutes of this local derby between Kenfig Hill and Tondu was as close as it could get and could have gone either way when the half-time whistle sounded.

Tondu struck first with a clinical Ashton Evans try which was converted by Josh Tatchell. Kenfig Hill were soon on level terms though when right wing Lewis Morgan sailed over a great try and Cameron Hall's conversion levelled the scores.

Hall then landed a penalty to give the home side the lead before man of the match Scott Walters crashed over for a well worked try to give the Waterwheelers a narrow 10-12 half-time lead.

The second half was a totally different ball game though, with Tondu unleashing another of what has become their trademark second half power plays over recent weeks to blow the Mules off the park.

Tatchell landed an early penalty for the visitors before Kenfig Hill regained the lead with a Lloyd Giles try which Hall converted.

That try though only served as a signal to spring Tondu into action as they unleashed a four-try salvo on their neighbours to finish the game in style.

The first came from a

wonderful piece work by Scott Walters to send captain Hywel Davies over under the posts to leave Tatchell with a simple conversion.

A few minutes later Walters was at it again, grabbing his second try of the game, Tatchell again adding the extra points.

The next came from flanker Marc Ellis with the home side now in total disarray and Tondu heading for another bonus point win.

The final try of the game came from some wonderful handling for full back Aled Jones to sail round under the posts. Tatchell added the conversion to seal a memorable victory for the Blue and Reds, who travel to Ammanford on Wednesday night for a 7.30pm kick off - let's hope we get more of the same with Tondu seemingly on fire at the moment.

Don't forget the big day for Tondu youth this Saturday as they take on Pembroke at the Principality Stadium in the WRU Plate final, kick off 1.15pm.

Also, Tondu seconds won a hard-fought league fixture with a 28-20 win over Maesteg Celtic to seal the top spot in the league.

TRIES came from Tom Harris, Chris Fitz and two from John Williams with a conversion and two penalties from outside half Luke Whittall.

MIKE SULLY



Jack Power with the ball, Morgan Evans in support (Picture by Tracey Williams).

Porthcawl RFC are in rampant form to demolish Neath Athletic

PORHCRAWL RFC, fresh from beating second-placed Swansea Uplands on Wednesday evening with a Jon Phillips try to nil in a very hard-fought match, turned on the style to again demolish Neath Athletic, running in 13 unanswered tries and record the double, following the 76-5 success at Neath in September.

Now, while the score reflects the Seaweeds' vast superiority, it does scant justice to the efforts of their opponents, who played decent rugby in patches, with their penalty scorer outside-half Arin Gulsen, No.8 Gareth Morgan, scrum-half Nathan Murphy, lock Huw Widdlake and centre Gwladys Llyr, all doing their best to inspire their side against the tide and they deserve big mentions for that.

The match was barely two minutes old when centre Jon Phillips nabbed Porthcawl's first try, one of four for him for the match, with Josh White converting and 7-0.

With the home side giving away cheap penalties early on, allied to less than accurate execution, Gulsen kicked Neath back into it with a 35 metre penalty and 7-3.

The visitors did their best to make Porthcawl work hard for points, however the superior speed of Gareth Rees soon made the scoreboard tick along, as he nabbed two sharp tries, the second of which started with a super pass from right wing Jack Power, with White converting both and a 21-3 scoreline inside 20 minutes.

Owen Thomas, playing at hooker in a change of role, showed



Ben Asprea heads to the try line.

his strength to rob Murphy of the ball and pinned his ears back over 35 metres for a fine individual try and 26-3 before left wing Jake Thomas, back to his best, increased the lead to 31-3 before a superb break out of defence by Jack Power, only for his pass to Jake Furness to find the ground with a try begging.

However, it wasn't long before Phillips blazed away for another super try from almost halfway, converted by White, and at 38-3 the match was over as a contest at the break. As prop Matt Cook came on for Tim Lunn, Porthcawl ramped up the running rugby, with Cook himself showing some superb handling touches and a couple of breaks and Rees was again on the scoresheet as he skipped under the posts for his hat-trick try, converted by White, and 45-3 as the floodgates started to open.

Jake Thomas was fed by his namesake full back Ben, to cross for his brace and 50-3 before flanker Ben Asprea strode 35 metres to cross at the posts, converted by White for 57-3 and was

quickly followed to the same spot by Phillips as he chased his own kick through for the try, White again converting for 64-3.

A brilliant dummy and break by Cook and a delightful kick ahead almost produced a try for Jake Furness before Sean Wilcox weaved his way through to the posts for White to convert and 71-3, with Neath now crumbling.

Phillips then capped a superb afternoon with his fourth try, wide out on the touchline, this being surpassed only by White's magnificent conversion for 78-3.

The final score of the match came as substitute lock Nick Nutman nabbed a try following a run by Ben Thomas, with Rees handing out the scoring pass and 83-3, White's conversion just wide.

So a thoroughly good run-out for Porthcawl as they catch up on matches while edging towards the Bowl final in Cardiff on April 29.

It's back on the road for the Seaweeds on Wednesday as they travel to Brynoco, seeking another double.

PF